

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

## FALL OF THE ABERDEEN ADMINISTRATION.

THE portentous calm amid which the Legislature reassembled on the 23rd of January was dispelled more suddenly than any one anticipated. Acting without advisers or confidants—in secrecy, and on his sole responsibility—Lord John Russell astonished his colleagues, the Parliament, and the country, by resigning office on the 25th. As a necessary consequence, the Administration has fallen to pieces. It could not survive the defection of its leader in the House of Commons,—of a leader so trusted, so honoured, so able, and so influential. Lord John Russell's motives for the act, which is one not utterly unprecedented, are not to be impugned, though it may be questioned whether his late colleagues have not a right to complain of something that looks very like treachery. On the Tuesday he announced, as a member of the Government, that he would introduce within a few days a bill for the promotion of Education in England and Wales, and on the Thursday he ceased, by his own act, to be a Minister of the Crown. And what occurred in this short interval to compel him to adopt a course which must have been highly painful, if not repugnant, to his feelings? Nothing beyond the announcement of a motion by Mr. Roebuck to inquire into the state of the troops before Sebastopol, and, as necessary corollaries, into the conduct of the war, and the general management—or mismanagement—of the Army. But how was it that Lord John Russell had not prescience enough to foretell such a motion, and to calculate upon it as a certainty, or weeks before the Legislature reassembled? Was there no dissatisfaction in the press, and in the public mind—which was sure to find a vent in Parliament, even if Mr. Roebuck had not thought it expedient to raise the question? Or would Lord John Russell have braved all other opposition but that which found its mouthpiece in the member for Sheffield? Could he withstand Disraeli—but not Roebuck? Was a Parliamentary censure of the mismanagement at Balaclava so unlikely to happen that it was not to be taken into account until the ears heard it, and the eyes could read it in the papers or the House? Lord John Russell—and we say it with the most unfeigned respect—should either have resigned at a much earlier period,

or he should have held on with his colleagues, and shared their fate, as he had already shared their councils. But on this topic it is needless to dwell. What Lord John Russell might have done has ceased to be of national importance. What he has done is the great fact of the day; and will influence the fortunes of the country and the fate of Europe for generations. His secession, but more especially the reasons he gave for it, left Parliament no choice but to agree to Mr. Roebuck's motion. That the majority on that occasion was so large we take to be a fortunate circumstance. Had the conduct of the war been condemned by a majority of twenty—or a dozen—or even of one member—we do not see how the Ministry could have ventured to retain office. But, with the fact of so startling a majority, the allies as well as the enemies of England will learn another fact, which will give confidence to the one and inflict sore discouragement upon the other. They will learn that, however heterogeneous may be the elements of party in this country—however confused and chaotic the opinions of our statesmen on many important points both of internal and external policy—there is one point on which there is no disagreement. They will learn that the heart of the people is in the war; that the national "blood is up;" that the Parliament, like the people, has but one desire, which is, to carry on hostilities with the utmost vigour, even to the overthrow of the strongest Administration the country has enjoyed for many years.

Immediately after the battle of Inkerman the glory of Great Britain was at its highest. The world held its breath in admiration at the unparalleled bravery of the noble eight thousand who withstood for hours and finally defeated an army five, if not six, times their number. To the silence of that admiration succeeded one

unanimous burst of applause from every part of the civilised world—applause which in their secret souls even the Emperor Nicholas and his Generals must have acknowledged to have been nobly earned. But since that day, while the bravery of the army has suffered no diminution, while the enthusiasm of the people at home has experienced no abatement, and while the determination of all classes to stint neither men nor money—to relax in no exertion—to withhold no sacrifice necessary to command success, has been strengthened by cool reason as well as by passion—discredit has been thrown upon our arms and upon our institutions. We have fallen in the opinion of the French who fought by our side. We have lost reputation—our glory has been tarnished—the prestige of our name has been imperilled; and the Czar has been emboldened into obstinacy by the spectacle of our helplessness.

The complaint of Lord John Russell against his late colleagues, and of the whole country against Lord John Russell, as well as against his colleagues, is, that by some defect of management—some blundering in details—some incapacity existing somewhere, or some obstruction, that must be discovered and removed—the noblest army that ever left our shores—an army that has been victorious in every encounter with the foe—that has not only equalled but surpassed all the heroism recorded in British history—has been left to perish of disease and famine, and been shamed in its own eyes, and in those of the world, by no fault of its



SCENE IN THE MILITARY HOSPITAL, AT HASLAR.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



own, and by no causes which it had any right or reason to anticipate. Compared with such facts as these, of what value was any Administration, however well-intentioned and honest as a whole, and however illustrious as regards the personal and public character and position of its component members? Clearly of none. The public welfare and the national honour were at stake, and Parliament rose superior to party. The Coalition Government was defeated by a Coalition greater than itself. Men of all parties forgot their antecedents and connections in the paramount and patriotic determination to make war on such a scale, and with such a purpose, as to conquer a safe, an honourable, and a durable peace.

The change of a Ministry in the midst of a great war is doubtless an evil; but, the evil having come, the British nation, true to its practical character, will turn it to speedy and to profitable account. The Czar will not be allowed to draw any encouragement from the knowledge that Lord Aberdeen has fallen. He will learn our dissensions, but will learn at the same time that we are still the foremost people of the world; and that, if our rulers make blunders, the people have both sagacity and energy to supply their deficiencies. It is not only a change of Ministry but a change of system that will result. Forty years of peace have not demoralised us, as Alma and Inkerman can testify, and as other victories, yet to be won, will prove as abundantly and as gloriously. But these forty years of peace have allowed a bad system to develop and extend itself in the administration of an army, which in peace was not over popular, and which offered few charms to the hard hands of the labouring, and none to the clear heads and aspiring genius of the middle, classes. But with the fall of the Aberdeen Ministry, falls the system which that Ministry was unable, though, perhaps, not unwilling, to reform. The system was so deeply rooted, that it required the shadow of impending calamity and disgrace to arouse all classes—the governing as well as the governed—to the stern necessity of abolishing it. The country could not obtain Reform in Parliament until revolution was close at hand. It could not obtain a Repeal of the Corn-laws except under a similar penalty. The Reformation of its military system has to be purchased in the same unpropitious manner. Fortunately the change will come before it be too late. There was little time, but we hope there will be sufficient.

#### SCENE IN THE MILITARY HOSPITAL AT HASLAR.

Among the melancholy scenes which chequer the incidents of the war, the Military Hospital at Haslar presents some afflicting episodes of suffering. That engraved upon the preceding page (sketched a few days since) portrays a private of the 23rd Regiment. This poor fellow was hit, at the battle of the Alma, by a chain-shot, which, he says, he did not feel. The sufferer lay upon the field until the following afternoon, when his leg was amputated. He was brought to Portsmouth not many days since, and now presents a sad illustration of

the big wars  
That make ambition virtue.

#### DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

(From a Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday, January 26.)

War Department, January 27, 1855.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle has received a despatch, of which the following is a copy, addressed to his Grace by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:

Before Sebastopol, Jan. 13, 1855.

My Lord Duke,—The weather continues very severe, and to-day it blows a gale of wind, with drifting snow.

Although I have not received the official report from the officer commanding the Fourth Division, the officer of the Quartermaster-General's department, whose duty it is to visit the advanced posts at daylight, has brought in an account of a sortie made by the Russians in the course of last night upon our right and left attack, the enemy advancing, under protection of a heavy cannonade, along the Woronzow-road and the ravine on our extreme left.

The enemy succeeded in driving in the troops in the advanced trench, which was not re-occupied until the reserves were brought forward from the second parallel.

A party in pits on the right of the advanced trench, consisting of 1 sergeant and 13 rank and file, are missing; and 1 officer and 36 privates are stated to be wounded.

The time for the despatch of the mail being at hand, I am very sorry that I shall not be able to send your Grace to-day a more accurate statement of this affair.

I enclose a return of casualties between the 8th and the 11th. Great progress is making in disembarking and issuing to the troops vast quantities of warm clothing of all descriptions; and I believe I may assert that every man in this army has received a second blanket, a jersey frock, flannel drawers, and socks, and some kind of winter coat, in addition to the ordinary great-coat.

The provision of fuel is still a great difficulty.

Every effort is making, and with tolerable success, in landing and putting up the huts; their great weight (2½ tons each) is a serious obstacle to their conveyance to the Camp, with our limited transport. Each hut requires three stripped artillery waggons, with from eight to ten horses each, or 180 men.

Much sickness continues to prevail.—I have, &c., RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c., &c., &c.

War-office, Jan. 27, 1855.

The Right Hon. the Secretary at War has received from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle the following list of casualties amongst the non-commissioned officers and privates in the forces under the command of Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B., from the 8th to the 11th January, 1855, both days inclusive.

#### RETURN OF CASUALTIES FROM 8TH TO 11TH JANUARY, 1855.

4th Foot: 1 rank and file killed; 2 rank and file wounded.  
19th: 1 rank and file wounded.  
21st: 1 sergeant, 1 rank and file killed; 1 rank and file wounded.  
23rd: 1 rank and file killed.  
30th: 2 rank and file killed.  
38th: 1 rank and file wounded.  
44th: 1 rank and file wounded.  
Total: 2 sergeants, 7 rank and file, killed; 12 rank and file wounded.

J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, Adjutant-General.

#### NOMINAL RETURN OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM 8TH TO 11TH JANUARY, 1855, INCLUSIVE.

4th Foot: Private John Green.  
21st: Sergeant William Ryan; private Hugh McNamara.  
23rd: Private Josiah Painting.

4th Foot: Privates James M'Mahon, William Richards, severely.  
19th: Private Daniel Hawkins, slightly.  
21st: Private Charles Crood, slightly.  
30th: Private Dennis Donovan, severely.  
44th: Private John Burns, slightly.

J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, Adjutant-General.

**THE LAST LONDON ALCHEMIST.**—The last true believer in alchemy was, according to Mr. Brande, Peter Woulfe, F.R.S., the eminent chemist, who occupied chambers in Barnard's-inn, Holborn, and usually spent the summer in Paris. Woulfe was a tall, thin man; his chambers were on the second floor of No. 2, Barnard's-inn; here he died in 1806, and his last moments were remarkable. By his desire, his landress shut up his chambers and left him, but returned at midnight, when Woulfe was still alive. Next morning, however, she found him dead; his countenance was calm and serene, and, apparently, he had not moved from the position in which she had last seen him. Among Woulfe's contributions to the "Philosophical Transactions" are "Experiments to show the Nature of Aurum Mosaicum."—*Curiosities of London* (just published).

#### THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

By the *Egyptus*, which left Constantinople on the 22nd, we have advices from the Crimea to the 20th ult., at which date the condition of the troops was improving. The Russian sorties had become more frequent, but the severe frost had rendered a general engagement impracticable. The French troops have taken most of the English right attack, which will relieve our army. A council of Generals was held at Lord Raglan's quarters on the 15th, and the general impression was, that something important has been resolved upon, as soon as the weather permits. The French have for some time been quite ready to open on the town with fifty 10 and 13 inch mortars, and have only been waiting until all the English mortars were in position, and sufficiently supplied with ammunition to support their fire. Pending this happy consummation, and to divert the enemy in the meanwhile, our allies are said to have commenced firing from a distant battery with ten 13-inch mortars upon the town and strongest of the Russian works. Each of these mortars fires fifty rounds a day, and any one who has ever seen the effect produced by the bursting of a "Whistling Dick," of thirteen inches, will know at once that 500 per diem cannot fall into the enemy's lines without doing fearful mischief to all around. All their missiles are certain at four thousand yards, and for destructive purposes can be used at five thousand; consequently, even the defences on the north side of the harbour come under fire. Where they have been thrown in the town, the stately and strong-built houses on which they fall are mere ruins; 240 lb. weight of iron falling upon the roof of a house, from the height of a mile, penetrates to the very foundation, when the explosion of a well-confined bursting charge of 20 lb. of powder settles everything about the structure, from foundation to roof, for ever. Not many shells have yet been thrown among the houses—perhaps not more than twenty—yet, when they have fallen, buildings which throughout the siege have never shown a mark are now mere piles of rubbish. The French, for the present, are principally directing their efforts to injuring the Garden Battery and redan; and 495 out of the 500 shells fired each day fall in the centre of these ill-starred defences. Already no less than eleven guns have been silenced in these works, and, though generally the cannon is replaced during the night, it still shows that the bombs are telling severely. On the average fifty men will be killed and wounded before a gun is injured by the bursting of bombs. The rest of the French mortars (forty), with about forty heavy guns, are kept in reserve until our preparations are completed. When the English commence they will do so with thirty-five mortars and sixty heavy guns, all of which, with the exception of two or three of the latter, are in position, and only waiting for stores of ammunition to open fire. When the bombardment is commenced fifty rounds every twelve hours are to be fired from each piece of ordnance, until all the ammunition is expended. According to this arrangement about 20,000 rounds of shot and shell will be thrown into Sebastopol every twenty-four hours, and the Russians must surely be made of sterner stuff than bronze or granite if they stand fifty or sixty hours of such a cannonade. When the bombardment has done its worst it is said the Allied forces are to storm.

The *Militaire Zeitung* says that two French divisions, under General Pelissier, are to join Omer Pacha; and that Perekop is to be attacked, and, if possible, taken by the combined forces. General Marmora's force will land in the bay of Kaffa, under the protection of the guns of a squadron of the Allied fleet, and will threaten the communications by way of the isthmus of Arabad. This Piedmont detachment will embark for its destination on the 28th of February, and will be reinforced by some Anglo-French troops.

#### THE RUSSIANS CELEBRATING THE NEW YEAR.

The Russians, who had been very active inside the town during the 12th, the last day of the year according to their calendar, and who had lighted great watchfires on the north side of the place, illuminated the heights over the Tchernaya with rows of lights, which shone brilliantly through the darkness of the cold winter's night, and were evidently with all possible pomp and ostentation celebrating the opening of their peculiar new year. Lights shone from the windows of the public buildings, and our lonely sentries in the valleys and ravines, and the *enfants perdus*—the French sharpshooters lying in their lairs with watchful eye on every embankment before them—might almost fancy that the inhabitants and garrison of the beleaguered city were tantalizing them with the aspect of their gaiety. At midnight all the chapel bells of the city began ringing, and it was evident that a religious ceremony of extraordinary solemnity was about to take place. On the English side the sentries and pickets were warned to be on the alert, and the advanced posts were strengthened wherever it was practicable. About a quarter past one o'clock in the morning the Russians inside the line of works gave a loud cheer. The French replied by opening fire, and the Russians in return instantly began one of the fiercest cannonades along the front of their position which has yet been heard. The earthworks flashed forth uninterrupted floods of flame, which broke through the smoke as lightning through the thunder-cloud, and revealed distinctly the outlines of the buildings in the town, and the lines of defences swarming with men. The roaring of shot, the screaming and hissing of heavy shell, and the whistling of carcasses filled up the intervals between the deafening roll of cannon, which was as rapid and unbroken as quick file-firing. The iron and stones passed over our lines unintercepted for more than half-an-hour; and the French, whose works to our left are less protected by the ground than ours are, had to shelter themselves closely in the trenches, and could barely reply to the massive volleys which ploughed up the parapets of their works; but their *enfants perdus* never lost an opportunity of sending their balls into the embrasures. In the meantime, while the firing was going on, a strong body of men had been pushed out of the town up the face of the hill towards our works in front and on the flank of the left attack. As it was expected that some attempt of the kind would be made, one of the staidest sergeants in the service was posted here with twelve men. Every reliance was placed on his vigilance and on his strict attention to his duties, but somehow or the other the enemy crept up on the little party, surprised and took them prisoners, and then advanced on the covering parties with such rapidity and suddenness that the parties of the Sixty—th and of the Twenty—st Regiments, which were on duty in the trenches, were obliged to retire almost without firing a shot. They rallied, however, and fired, and, being supported by the regiments in rear, they advanced, and the Russians were driven back close to the town. In this little affair one officer and nine men were severely wounded, six men were killed, and fourteen men are now missing. The French had to resist a strong sortie nearly at the same time, and for a short time the Russians were within the parapet of one of their mortar batteries; and spiked, it is said, two or three mortars with wooden plugs, but the French soon drove them back with loss, and in the pursuit got inside the lines of the Russians' advanced batteries. The soldiers, indeed, say they could have taken the place that night, if they had been permitted to do so. At two o'clock in the morning all was silent once more, and the Allied armies had opened their new Russian year on Crimean soil.

#### RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.

The German papers are full of reports from Russia regarding the preparations which the Czar is making for the spring campaign. According to letters from Revel of the 15th ult. it appears that the future army of the Baltic, the assembling of which was decreed on the 10th December by the Emperor, is to be much more considerable than was supposed when the ukase was issued. General Sievers, commander of the corps of infantry, having also under his orders that of the Baltic, and whose headquarters are established at Mittau, will also have under his command an army of at least 100,000 men, destined to operate, in case of need, in the provinces of Lithuania, Courland, and along the coast of Finland, between Libau and Revel. The correspondent of the *Berlin National* writes as follows from St. Petersburg, under date of the 19th:—

The military administration has ordered enormous quantities of warlike stores. The arsenals, workshops, and depôts have received fresh orders, and the Commissariat has been directed to proceed with rigour against all contractors and purveyors who are not punctual. The severity with which some authorities have proceeded against such persons has rather damped their spirit of enterprise, and thus raised prices for want of competition. The dockyard administration has made a demand for 50,000 pud of hemp for rigging, and 1000 tons of suet. The arsenal of Briansk had furnished 22,000 pud of artillery stores; and 45,000 pud of cannon has been sent from Dubov to Rostoff, on the Don, as the frost facilitates the transport. Tula has furnished about 300,000 pud of arms, which have been conveyed to different depôts. Enormous quantities of hospital stores have been sent to Brjesc-Litefski, on the Bug, to Kiyeff, Wilna, Minsk, Grodno, &c. In short, the most restless military activity prevails throughout the whole empire. In proportion as reports are received of military preparations and movements of troops in Austria, the more energetic are counter-preparations on this side. Russian journals rival each other in registering details of the movements and dislocation of Austrian troops. Attempts are made to treat the question with indifference; nevertheless the Court journal made the remarkable observation the other day, that "Germany would not be able to avoid going to war with Russia."

The *Kreuz Zeitung* contains long details of the forces on paper at the disposal of the Czar. The Russian organ is, from peculiar circumstances, in a position to obtain correct information—at all events as to the paper amount of the Russian forces, and we may therefore give the summary of its calculations. These, exclusive of the Caucasian corps, and two divisions of the 5th and 6th corps, detached to Asia, amount to 607 battalions, 562 squadrons, and 1712 field-pieces, which on paper represent 637,000 infantry, 95,000 cavalry, and 42,000 artillery. The journal says that not more than ten per cent is to be deducted for non-effectives. Now, this is most notoriously incorrect. It is possible that regiments of the Guards and *elite* corps, when in garrison, and in peace time, may not have more than ten per cent ineffective; but it is not less notorious that not a single battalion of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th corps averages, one with the other, more than a maximum of 600 present under arms, and that squadrons and batteries offer the same proportion. Thirty and not ten per cent difference between effective and paper strength is the fair allowance to be made. Altogether it is calculated that the total amount of the Russian army may consist of about 700,000 men.

The reckless consumption of human life in order to gratify the ambition of the Emperor is beginning to tell upon the supply of serfs, as will be seen by the following extract from a recent Russian letter:—

St. Petersburg, Jan. 24.—In consequence of the difficulty of filling up the ranks of the army, the Emperor has ordered that men shall be liable to the age of thirty-seven instead of that of thirty, as heretofore. Those sons of aged or widowed parents hitherto exempted are also now ordered to serve, forming separate corps.

#### THE RUSSIANS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

By the arrival of the Overland Mail from India we have intelligence of the position of the Russians in Central Asia.

The *Delhi Gazette* has a letter from its Bokhara correspondent, of the date of the 21st October, which states:—

That the Russian force in the direction of Kokan had been successful in two engagements with the troops of the country. Tajikund is said to have fallen into their hands, but they do not mean to move towards the capital until next spring. The Russian General gives great encouragement to the surrounding tribes to bring provisions and other necessities into camp. Sheep, barley, and wheat command high prices. He is also buying up at great cost lambskins, to clothe his troops in the approaching winter.

The King of Kokan, on his side, keeps his Oosbegs busy in plundering the Russian convoys. The Khan of Kokan does the same, although he has been frightened into an alliance with the Russians. When any complaint is made, he takes care to throw all the blame of the plundering on the Alamans of the King of Bokhara. The latter has completely succumbed to Russian influence. He has, on the advice of the Russian General, sent two agents to negotiate with the Persian Government at Merw and Mushed. He is also about to send two men of rank to "Peterport" (St. Petersburg) and Teheran. This subservience to Russia has much dispirited the people of Kokan, who at one time counted on aid from Bokhara.

The Russians have been in possession of Emam Musjid for eight months. It is also rumoured that Kokan itself (the capital) has fallen, and that the victors afterwards restored it to the fallen King; but this is not believed in certain quarters. The only thing certain is, that the Kokanees have suffered defeats.

The position of the Khan of Khiva is perilous, standing as he does between the Russians on one side and the Persian army near Merw on the other. It is rumoured in Bokhara that the British Plenipotentiary at Teheran lately sent his deputy, escorted by twenty Toorkmans, direct from Teheran to Khiva, leaving Mushed and Merw on their right. He carries, it is said, a letter to the Khan of Khiva, stating that the Russians are daily losing battles, and have been completely driven out of Turkey; that he need not be afraid of the movements of the Persian army at Merw; since, if the Shah will not attend to the friendly advice of the English, and keep himself quiet, a British force will be sent from India to invade his dominions. The Naib is said to be still at Khiva; and some say that he has paid the Khan 20,000 ducats, and encouraged him to keep on good terms with the Russian General, since there is no help for it, but to attack his convoys, and destroy his communications.

The Bokhara correspondent adds:—

When I was at Cabul I always heard that the Russians had been defeated by the Sultan; but in Turkistan, and especially in Bokhara, the prevalent belief is precisely the contrary.

#### AUSTRIA AND THE CONFEDERATION.

The publication of the following despatch from Count de Buol to the States of the German Confederation, which has taken place solely to the annoyance of the Prussian Government, has caused an immense sensation in Germany. This excitement will become perfectly intelligible on referring to the very pointed demand made in the despatch itself, in which each Prince of Germany is called to say whether, supposing Prussia, supposing a majority of the Confederation to declare for inaction, he will be ready to unite his destinies with those of Austria, and join his armies to those of its empire. The following is the despatch, as given in the *Dusseldorf Gazette*:—

(Confidential.)

VIENNA, Jan. 14, 1855.

We may still consider the adhesion of Prussia to the alliance concluded by the treaty of the 2nd of December as a probable eventuality, and for its part the Imperial Government will always consider it a duty to do everything in its power to put an end (one way or another) to the differences which, to its regret, unhappily now exist between the two great German Powers.

If the hope of seeing Prussia adhere to the alliance should be realized, the complete and sincere concurrence of the two Powers in their quality of German Federal Powers would thereby be assured.

Experience, however, bids us extend our provisions to the case that Prussia should attempt longer to persist in her policy of indecision, and should even attempt to act at Frankfurt in a manner to thwart our propositions upon the necessity of the Confederation being prepared for war.

In such case, the Imperial Government would only the more resolutely desire to pursue, with the support of the other German Governments, the path traced by the Federal Constitution as regards the manner in which this great question ought to be considered, and it would regard itself as neglecting one of the most sacred duties of its mission in Germany, if it did not endeavour above all things to attain that the Confederation should take constitutional resolutions, and if, for its own part, it was not perfectly ready to take upon itself the consequences of those resolutions.

Therefore, at a moment when our confederates will have to decide upon their participation in events perhaps decisive for the destinies of Germany, we cannot hesitate in putting the question to them, confidentially, as to how they will act in the case of being resolved to go in accordance with us, should a conformable resolution not be obtained in the Federal Assembly.

We do not hesitate openly to ask our confederates if, in that case, they will grant sufficient confidence to Austria to join her destinies; and if, in case all our endeavours to obtain a solid and sure peace should fail, Austria may, in the most extreme eventuality, equally count upon their active co-operation.

The Imperial Court would, in such case, give the most solemn assurances to guarantee their territorial possessions and position against every eventuality, and, moreover, to grant them their share of advantage resulting from the war in proportion to the number of troops employed. In exchange, Austria must put the condition that a body of troops, to be determined upon, should be at once made ready for service, and claim that — [Here comes the name of the Government of the State addressed] shall express to his Majesty the Emperor the confidence of placing, in case of appeal, the direction of their contingent under the superior command of his Imperial Majesty.

We count upon a frank and candid reply, and it will give us great satisfaction to find that it responds to our wish, as that will have the effect of throwing light upon our relations with the German Governments, and of consolidating them especially with — [name of State], providing them with all the guarantees which the necessities of this grave epoch demand.

You will please to make a confidential communication of this despatch to —

DE BUOL.

Some of the German journals, commenting on this despatch, trace a parallel between the present state of Germany and that which existed in 1806, the epoch of the dissolution of the German Empire. Looking at the remarkable words which occur in Count Buol's despatch, some of these journalists express the apprehension that the map of Central Europe is about to be exposed to the risk of a new modification. It is worth noticing that this is the first time since the establishment of the Confederation that a question of war has been brought before its Diet. The articles of the "Final Act of Vienna," under which Austria proposes to make separate war conventions with the several States, are thus framed:—

Art. 41. Resolutions adopted in restricted council, relative to the reality of the danger of a hostile attack, bind all Federal States to a participation in the defensive measures regarded as necessary by the Diet. In the same manner a declaration of war pronounced in plenary Assembly binds all Federal States to a direct participation in the common war.

Art. 42. Should the preparatory question of whether danger be at hand be decidedly negated by a majority; nevertheless, it remains open for such States as are persuaded of the danger to deliberate among themselves upon measures for common defence.

On the 22nd ult. Baron Prokesch made a motion in the Diet that half the contingents of the several Federal States be made mobile, and that a



Commander-in-Chief be elected; but, as some of the members declared that they were not furnished with the necessary instructions, the questions could not be put to the vote.

A telegraphic despatch from Berlin states that, at the sitting of the Committee of the Diet on the 30th, the motion of Austria for the mobilisation of the federal contingents was rejected and withdrawn, and that the motion of Prussia on the preparation for war (*Kriegsbereitschaft*) was accepted.

#### THE ATTITUDE OF PRUSSIA.

The latest diplomatic production which has issued from Berlin is a despatch from M. Manteuffel, dated January 21st, and addressed to the Representatives of Prussia in Paris and London, presenting the reasons why, after admitting that Prussia cannot join the treaty of December 2nd, the Powers negotiating have not been able to reconcile their common purpose with their particular interests. "Frankly," Prussia avows, that "important changes of fact have supervened;" the term for adhesion fixed by the treaty has expired; and "the offensive tendency of the treaty, eclipsed in some sort before the expiration of the term," now displays in true bearing the engagements which Prussia is invited to contract. Moreover, the Western Powers have had confidential communications with the Representative of Russia, from which Prussia was excluded. In Prince Gortschakoff's memorandum M. Manteuffel's Government "see conciliatory and pacific dispositions;" but not knowing the work by the three Representatives, of which it is the corollary, nor "the ensemble of the motives which have presided over the birth of these documents," that Government cannot form a precise judgment on the eventualities of the engagements involved. These are the reasons why further negotiations would be fruitless until a representative shall be permitted to take his seat at the deliberations in Vienna. King Frederick William "makes this conviction the point of departure for his future attitude." He will not do so, however, without declaring that "he does not permit himself to be guided only by practical exigencies, but by considerations of a higher order." What these considerations are, except that Prussia has "rights as well as duties," we cannot learn from M. Manteuffel's very enigmatical language; although he finishes the passage by saying:—

Here, Monsieur le Comte, are principles so simple and natural, that they seem not to require an advocate. Have the kindness to lay them before M. le Ministre for Foreign Affairs (the Principal Secretary of State), who, we have the utmost confidence, will not withhold his approval of them; and will, with us, consider the frankness with which we have stated them as likely to facilitate rather than hinder an eventual good understanding between the two Cabinets.

It is impossible for anybody to say what these simple principles are. Prussia evidently wants to be off her bargain with Austria. The April treaty, and the additional article thereto of the 26th of November of last year, it is now pleaded at Berlin, are only of a defensive character, and contain no engagements of an offensive nature against Russia. Seeing, however, that all these "defensive" manœuvres no longer avail in restraining Austria from assuming an openly hostile position against the Muscovite patron of Germany and the brother-in-law of the King of Prussia, the latter has resolved to give Austria a check-mate in the Diet. It is difficult to say what the issue of the contest will be, but all accounts represent the people of Germany as thoroughly disgusted by the conduct of Frederick William. A gentleman who has recently passed through a greater part of Northern and Southern Germany, on his way to and from England, via Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Carlsruhe, and Strasburg, states that, whereas in former times, since 1848, public feeling at these places was generally unfavourable in its estimation of Austria, now the bold, straightforward, and honest policy of that country forms the most popular theme of every-day conversation.

A telegraphic despatch from Berlin, dated Wednesday, says:—The Government has decreed immediate mobilisation. The Fourth and Sixth Army Corps are ordered to occupy the provinces of Saxony and Silesia. The demand of France, that a portion of the French army be allowed to pass through Prussia, is categorically rejected.

#### THE VIENNA INTERPRETATION OF THE FOUR POINTS.

The following is said to be the interpretation of the Four Points agreed on by the representatives of the Allied Powers at Vienna:—

For the purpose of fixing the sense which their Governments attach to each of the principles contained in the four articles, but reserving to themselves, as they have always hitherto done, the power subsequently to make such special stipulations as appear to them demanded by the general interests of Europe over and above the four guarantees for the prevention of the return of the late complications, the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, and Great Britain declare that:—

1. Their Governments are jointly of opinion, that it is necessary to abolish the exclusive protectorate which Russia has exercised over Moldavia, Wallachia, and Servia, and from henceforth to place the privileges accorded by the Sultans to these principalities, which form part of their territories, under the joint guarantee of the Five Powers; and that they (the Governments) have, therefore, considered, and do consider, that none of the stipulations of the old treaties of Russia with the Porte, having reference to the said provinces, can, at the conclusion of a peace, be put again into force; and that the arrangements which have to be made in reference to them must in future be combined in such a way as to afford perfect and entire consideration for the rights of the Sovereign Power, those of the three Principalities, and the general interests of Europe.

2. In order to give to the freedom of the navigation of the Danube all the development of which it is susceptible, it would be expedient that the lower portion of the Danube, from that point where it becomes common to the two littoral States, should be withdrawn from the territorial dominion that exists in virtue of Art. 3 of the peace of Adrianople.

At any rate the free navigation of the Danube would not be secured if it be not placed under the surveillance of a Syndical Board, that should be invested with the necessary powers for the purpose of getting rid of the obstructions which at present exist at the mouths of this stream, or which may at a future time be formed there.

3. The revision of the Treaty of July 13, 1841, shall have for its object to connect the existence of the Ottoman Empire more closely with the balance of power in Europe, and to put an end to that preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea. The measures to be taken in reference to this end depend too directly on the contingencies of war for their basis to be laid down as yet.

It is sufficient to indicate the principle that is to guide them.

4. Russia, in renouncing the claim to extend an official protectorate over the Sultan's Christian subjects who belong to the Oriental *râias*, naturally renounces the revival of any article of her former treaties, and more particularly of the Treaty of Kustchuk Kainardji, the erroneous interpretation of which has been the main cause of the present war. Whilst they (the Governments) extend each other their mutual co-operation for the purpose of obtaining from the initiative of the Ottoman Government the recognition and observance of the religious privileges of the various Christian communities without distinction of right, and whilst they jointly avail themselves, in the interest of the said communities, of the generous intentions proclaimed by his Majesty the Sultan with reference to them, they will take the greatest care to protect the dignity of his Highness and the independence of his crown from every encroachment.

To the first, second, and fourth points Prince Gortschakoff gave his adhesion. The only point on which no joint agreement was arrived at was the 3rd, the revision of the Treaty of 1841. Cognisance was taken of Prince Gortschakoff's declaration that the Emperor's sovereignty did not admit of the Powers meddling in the affairs of his Empire. Sebastopol might be taken, the fleet might be destroyed—that would be a *fait accompli*; but they must not demand that Russia should raze that fortress, and submit to a limitation of the number of her ships. To such stipulations Russia would never accede. This reservation obviously implies that Russia is resolved to cede no portion of her territory, be it in the Black Sea or elsewhere. If the Vienna Congress should, after all, commence its projected labours, this will prove a very knotty point, because it involves, more or less, the future existence of Sebastopol as a great Russian arsenal and fortress; for, supposing even that the Allies have no intention of retaining the Crimea, if they should succeed in reducing Sebastopol, and finally conquering that province of the empire, the reservation of Prince Gortschakoff plainly says that the sovereign rights of the Czar on his own territory shall in nowise be restricted by the arrangements which the Porte and her allies may intend to propose in order to do away in future with the preponderance of Russian power in the Euxine. The obvious meaning of this reservation on the part of the Muscovite diplomatist simply is, that the Emperor Nicholas will not cede his right to rebuild the fortress and arsenal of Sebastopol, if they should be reduced, and if he should hereafter think fit to do so.

#### THE TREATY WITH SARDINIA.

The following are the articles of the Military Convention which the Piedmontese Government has concluded with France and England in consequence of its accession to the treaty of 10th April:—

Art. 1. His Majesty the King of Sardinia will provide for the wants of the war a corps d'armée of 15,000 men, organised in five brigades, forming two

divisions, and one reserve brigade, under the command of a Sardinian General Art. 2. Immediately after the ratification of the present convention, measures shall be taken for the organisation and administrative regulation of this corps that it may be ready to leave within as short a delay as possible.

Art. 3. In execution of the 1st Article of the present convention, the corps d'armée of his Majesty the King of Sardinia will consist of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, in proportion to its effective force.

Art. 4. His Majesty the King of Sardinia engages himself to keep up the number of the expeditionary corps at 15,000 men, by the regular and successive sending out of the necessary reinforcements.

Art. 5. The Sardinian Government will provide for the pay and subsistence of its troops. The high contracting parties will concert measures to assure and facilitate the procuring of provisions for its stores.

Art. 6. Their Majesties the Emperor of the French and the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland guarantee the integrity of the States of his Majesty the King of Sardinia, and engage themselves to defend them against any attack as long as the present war lasts.

Art. 7. The present convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications exchanged at Turin as soon as possible.

A supplementary convention has been concluded between Sardinia and Great Britain, by which the latter Power promises to lend the King of Sardinia £1,000,000 at three per cent interest, and to convey the Sardinian troops to the Crimea free of charge. The following are the articles of the supplementary convention:—

Art. 1. The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland undertakes to recommend her Parliament to enable her to advance to the King of Sardinia, by means of a loan, the sum of one million sterling, of which one-half shall be paid by her Majesty as soon as the Parliament shall have given its consent, and the remainder in six months after the payment of the first sum. Her Britannic Majesty engages further to recommend her Parliament to enable her, should the war not be terminated at the expiration of twelve months after the first payment, to advance to the King of Sardinia, in the same proportions, a sum of one million sterling.

Art. 2. The interest to be paid on the said loan by the Sardinian Government shall be 4 per cent per annum; of which 3 per cent shall be on the score of interest, and 1 per cent for a sinking fund. The said interest shall count from the day on which an instalment shall be made of the said loan or loans, and shall be paid each half-year. The first payment is to be paid within a fortnight after the expiration of the six months, reckoning from the payment of the first instalment, and so on continually.

Art. 3. The Queen of Great Britain and Ireland will undertake to convey the Sardinian troops free of charge.

Art. 4. The present convention shall be ratified and the ratifications exchanged at Turin as promptly as possible. In faith of which the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention, and have affixed to it their seals.

Done at Turin, the 20th of January, 1855.

C. CAYOUR.  
JAMES HUDSON.

The volunteers for the Crimean expedition from the subaltern officers alone have exceeded 600. In the meantime the clerical papers endeavour to represent the alliance of Piedmont and the Western Powers under the worst colours, and the expressions of the leading "Codini" prove that they regard any approximation to France with truly religious horror, and sublimely pity the youthful inexperience of the Emperor of Austria which has allowed him to be entrapped by the traitorous counsels of his Ministers into a French alliance.

#### AMERICA.

The mail steam-ship *Asia*, which left Boston on the 17th, arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday morning, having been detained at Halifax twenty-eight hours by a heavy easterly gale and a dense fog.

In the House of Representatives the Know-nothing question has excluded all other considerations. Mr. Chandler, from Philadelphia, denied that the head of the Roman Catholic Church claimed the right of interfering with the political affairs of any country; and declared that, if the Bishop of Rome were to possess himself of an army and assail the rights of their country, he would find no more earnest antagonists than the Roman Catholics, and that every Bishop in the United States expressed the same opinion as himself.

In other respects the proceedings in the Senate and the House of Representatives have been unimportant. A petition from numerous merchants, asking Congress to provide against the difficulties arising from the abolition of corporal punishment, was presented to the Senate. The special committee on the Pacific Railroad Bill have finally determined to report to the Senate and urge the adoption of Senator Douglas's bill with slight amendments.

The correspondent of the *New York Herald* says:—

The dangerous illness of Mr. Mason in Paris, and the probable vacancy in the mission, have hastened the completion in the programme which has been for some time in contemplation for a change in the Cabinet. Very recently Mr. Buchanan was written to to exchange places with Marcy, who has determined to leave the State Department, and for the last six months has only been looking for a safe retreat in a first-class mission; and Mr. Mason's illness will probably furnish an opening sooner than could be provided by Buchanan's return. It is known that Buchanan will not accept the State Department, his friends alleging that he is much too smart to allow himself to be the legatee of Marcy's blunders. Mr. Guthrie will also go out. This change in the State and Treasury Departments involves, of course, a complete reorganisation of the Cabinet. What further has been determined upon we are not at liberty to state in detail, but the following changes are not improbable:—viz., that ex-Governor Seymour, of New York, now here, and ex-Governor Cobb, of Georgia, will fill the vacancies; and, should Cushing be provided with a mission, Toucey, of Connecticut, will also be called upon. Mr. Cushing is struggling for the State Department, but Pierce alone is favourable to him—all the leaders of the Democratic party desiring that he should leave the Cabinet. If both the English and French missions become vacant, it is more than probable Cushing will receive one of them. There is no doubt that strong Buchanan influence is at work here, and these are some of the results.

The change in the Cabinet carries with it a change in the foreign policy of the Administration, which now, owing to Marcy's influence, is anti-progressive, anti-Cuban, and anti-inaugural.

Seven military companies of Boston and vicinity, composed mainly of Irishmen, have surrendered their charters, and been disbanded by Governor Gardner, the recently-chosen Know-nothing Executive. The strong remarks of the Governor in opposition to organisations of foreigners, contained in his inaugural address, led the soldiery to adopt this step. Every attempt on the part of foreigners in that State to enrol themselves permanently in the militia has proved a failure, causing either an outbreak of popular disapprobation or the stinging rebuke of some public functionary.

The *Washington Union* announces that the first portion of the Kinney Expedition (Central American Colonists) would sail from Baltimore on the 25th of January, the second a few days later from Mobile, and the third from Brazos Santiago: 700 men go out in these vessels. Colonel Kinney was to sail the beginning of February from New York or Philadelphia in a first-class steamer.

Resolutions were offered at the Southern Convention, at New Orleans, on the 12th inst., declaring the acquisition of Cuba necessary to the protection of the commerce of the south, and urging upon Congress immediate action on the subject. A reciprocal treaty between Spain and Mexico for the repeal of laws suppressing the slave trade was also recommended. Both resolutions were referred.

#### THE CHINESE PIRATES AGAIN.

Despatches from Admiral Stirling, dated Hong-Kong, November 25, thirteen days later than those before published, describe an expedition against the pirates which prey upon trade in that district. The expedition was under the orders of Captain O'Callaghan, of the *Encounter*, who thus sums up the result of the affair:—

At Ty-ho: the whole of the junks, 17 in number, were destroyed; 6 guns taken by *Winchester's* boat, delivered to Marshal of Admiralty Court at Hong-Kong; 7 guns taken by *Spartan's* boats, disposed of in like manner; 2 guns taken and retained by the United States chartered steam-vessel *Queen*, and 10 guns destroyed with the junks and sunk. Number of pirates killed unknown. From 50 to 60 prisoners taken by the Chinese authorities. At Coulan and the neighbourhood: 50 junks destroyed; also 2 batteries, mounting 20 and 7 guns respectively; 17 guns taken by the Chinese authorities, and 6 by the *Queen*; 27 guns sunk and destroyed, being too heavy to embark without considerable waste of time; 15 guns thrown overboard by the pirates themselves from 3 junks off Cow-Kok; and from 50 to 60 pirates killed; 4 prisoners (13 were taken, 9 of whom either have been or are to be released by the Mandarin). Totals of 67 junks burnt, being in such positions that it would have taken a very long time, and would have been attended with considerable exposure and fatigue to have removed them. Ninety guns taken or destroyed; 50 to 60 pirates killed; 54 to 60 prisoners, as above stated. The whole of the junks were capable of having crews of from 20 to 40 men each. Allowing, therefore, an average of 30 men for each junk, there would not have been less than 2000 pirates, of whom 115 may be said to be either taken or killed. A large quantity of ammunition was also destroyed.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

##### REINFORCEMENTS FOR THE CRIMEA.

A letter from the naval dockyard at Bombay, under the superintendence of Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Leake, R.N., K.H., dated the 2nd inst., informs us of the progress of the equipment of the transports for the conveyance of the 10th Hussars for India to the Crimea. The letter says, "The 10th Hussars sail from this—the first detachment, 350 strong, on the 6th; the second detachment, the same number, on or about the 15th, to Suez, Alexandria, &c., horses and all. Our vessels for this service have been fitted out in an almost incredibly short space of time. The *Punjab* (1800 tons), from being a newly-launched hull off the stocks, was perfectly ready, as Sir Henry Leake promised she should be, on the sixth day after he took her in hand, stalls for 250 horses, mangers, slings for each, headstalls, mats to stand upon, and all complete; it was a hard go, but she was ready."

It is stated to be the intention of Government to increase the strength of the three battalions of Guards in the Crimea by 1000 bayonets—viz., 3rd battalion of Grenadier Guards, 300 men; 1st battalion of Coldstream Guards, 350 men; and Scots Fusilier Guards, 1st battalion, 350 men. The Household Brigade of Infantry is in a position to spare nearly double that number, having obtained large reinforcements of volunteers from the militia, and also been very successful in obtaining recruits; the volunteers, being mostly well disciplined, could at once be sent to the seat of war, if required, but it is believed that no further reinforcements will be sent out to the Crimea before the latter part of the next month.

On Saturday two large draughts of volunteers from the Dorsetshire and South Devon Regiments of Militia arrived by the South-Western and Great Western Railways, and were immediately marched from the termini to the principal recruiting depot, Delahay-street, Westminster, where having been officially and surgically inspected, they were, without a single exception, finally approved and attested to serve her Majesty in the following regiments at present in the Crimea, or about to proceed to the seat of war—viz., the 3rd Buffs, 7th Royal Fusiliers, 18th Royal Irish, 19th Regiment of Foot, 20th Foot, 21st Royal North British Fusiliers, 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 33rd (Duke of Wellington's Own), 42nd Highlanders, 68th Durham Light Infantry, 71st Highland Light Infantry, 88th Connaught Rangers, 93rd Highlanders, 94th Regiment of Foot, and 96th Foot. A large body of recruits from the agricultural districts in the midland and northern counties also arrived.

**THE BALTIC FLEET.**—An order from the Lords of the Admiralty has been received at Portsmouth, and at all the other dockyard, for the whole of the ships now under repair or refit which formed part of the Baltic fleet of 1854 to be expedited in their refitment, as they are required to be ready for service by the end of February, and to assemble in the Downs by the first week in March, where it is deemed probable the fleet will be inspected by the Emperor and Empress of the French, en route from France to England to visit Queen Victoria. Rear-Admiral Martin, Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, is reported to be the intended Commander-in-Chief of this fleet, and Rear-Admiral Michael Seymour second in command.

**STOVES FOR THE CRIMEA.**—In consequence of representations made to the Government of the great suffering and inconvenience experienced by the troops before Sebastopol from the absence of all convenience for cooking the rations served out to them, several hundred cooking-stoves, of a novel yet simple construction, were shipped from the Tower-wharf on Monday, for conveyance to Balaklava. The manner of using these stoves can be discovered at a glance: compartments are in each for boiling, baking, and stewing; the upper surface may be used as a hot-plate for frying, &c.; while over the furnace, space is left for broiling. The entire apparatus stands about 3 feet high, and is about 30 inches square; round its sides are hooks whereon to hang coffee and tea boilers; and it is calculated that, with regular order, each stove will cook for forty men.

The General Screw steam-ship *Calcutta*, which arrived at Southampton from Australia on Monday, will, it is said, be taken up by the Government for the conveyance of troops. The ship is in excellent condition, and about a week only is required to render her again fit for sea. The screw-transport *Lady Jocelyn*, chartered by the French Government, will convey huts and stores, and will accompany the chartered American clipper-ship *White Falcon*, which is being laden with wooden houses, to the Black Sea. The Royal Mail steam-ship *Severn*, chartered by the English Government, and fitted as a hospital-ship, is quite ready for sea, and only awaits orders. The arrangement of her berths, which number 240, is most complete. Each invalid will have a separate compartment, numbered and arranged, so as to give the medical attendants every facility in their attentions to their patients. There is also space sufficient to enable stretchers to be carried to any part of the hospital ward.

The first prize-money acquired during the present war was paid at Somerset-house, on Monday, to the officers and crew of her Majesty's steamer *Odin*, in respect to the capture of the Russian vessel *Najaden*.

NOTICE has been issued at the Horse Guards that, with a view to encourage enlistment in the army, her Majesty had increased the bounty to recruits in the cavalry to £10, and infantry to £8, and in the Royal Marines recruits will now receive £8, and volunteers from the Militia £9.

THE Lords of the Admiralty gave notice that vessels are required to convey 250 tons of filled shells, cartridges, and rocket tubes, 19 heavy guns, 17 tons' weight of carriages, and 700 tons of naval stores from the river Thames, for Malta.

The *Robert Lowe* steam-transport has arrived at Balaklava with the apparatus for blowing up and destroying the sunken wrecks at the mouth of the harbour of Sebastopol, to clear the way for the entrance of the Allied fleet. The corps of divers have all arrived out well. Twenty-five tons of powder will be used at a time in these submarine explosions, which will take place by electric agency. It is calculated that, in addition to destroying the sunken wrecks, these explosions will seriously injure the foundations of Forts Constantine and Alexander, and probably render them untenable. The *Robert Lowe* landed 4,000,000 Minié cartridges for the use of the army.

**PERMANENT CAMP AT ALDERSHOT.**—The Board of Ordnance have just invited tenders to be sent in for the construction of wooden barracks at Aldershot-heath, in Hampshire, for the accommodation of 20,000 men, with the due proportion of officers, stores, &c., the whole to be completed by the 15th of March next. They also invite tenders to be sent in by the 5th of February for the erection of brick buildings at the same place for officers' quarters and soldiers' barracks for cavalry, infantry, and artillery, together with hospital, riding-school, guardhouses, &c. The first-named wooden barracks are to be temporary only until the brick, which are permanent, are completed.

**THE MINIE RIFLE.**—The Minié rifle is being adopted into the American service upon an improved plan. Instead of a short iron tube inserted in the ball, it is to be made with a cavity, into which a portion of the charge of powder will be forced, and its explosion does the whole work of spreading the ball so as to completely slug or fill the rifled bore of the gun, and driving it on its mission of death. The manufacture of muskets in the United States armouries is to be abandoned, and the troops are to be armed with the improved Minié rifles, with bayonets.

BETWEEN the 12th and 20th of January the following vessels of war and transports left Malta with troops and stores for the Crimea:—The *Jura*, with 38 officers and 1090 rank and file; *Transport* (150), with 19 officers and 865 rank and file; the *St. Jean d'Acre*, with troops; and the *Foyle*, the *Poictiers*, the *Clyde*, and the *Lady Eglinton*, with munitions of war, huts, and warm clothing; and the *Trent*, with 260 mules and 54 Spanish muleteers.

It is intended to increase the strength of the Royal Artillery at the seat of war by six field batteries, four batteries of the Horse Artillery, a detachment of the Rocket Brigade, and an extra siege-train of guns of very large calibre. Lancasters and mortars are also to be dispatched; and, in order to make all the drilled men available as gunners—several of whom are at present acting as drivers of ammunition-waggons, tumbrils, and guns—it is in contemplation to reorganise the corps of Royal Artillery Drivers, the sole duty of whom will be to drive and attend to the horses, the sub-officers of that corps will, as formerly, be selected from the non-commissioned officers of the Royal Horse and Foot Artillery, and will be entitled to the premium of £150 each, as in cavalry regiments, on receiving their commissions.

From an early hour on Wednesday the workmen in the Ordnance storekeeper's department in the Tower were actively engaged in making preparations for the embarkation of the last portion of the winter clothing, culinary utensils, stores, &c., for the Crimea. The stores consisted of American stoves, iron kettles and saucepans, frying-pans, and other culinary utensils; fur clothing (both for men and horses), blankets, flannel, under-clothing, hosiery (fine), trousers, cowhide watertight boots and shoe, and great-coats, many of these garments having been lost at the battle of Inkerman.

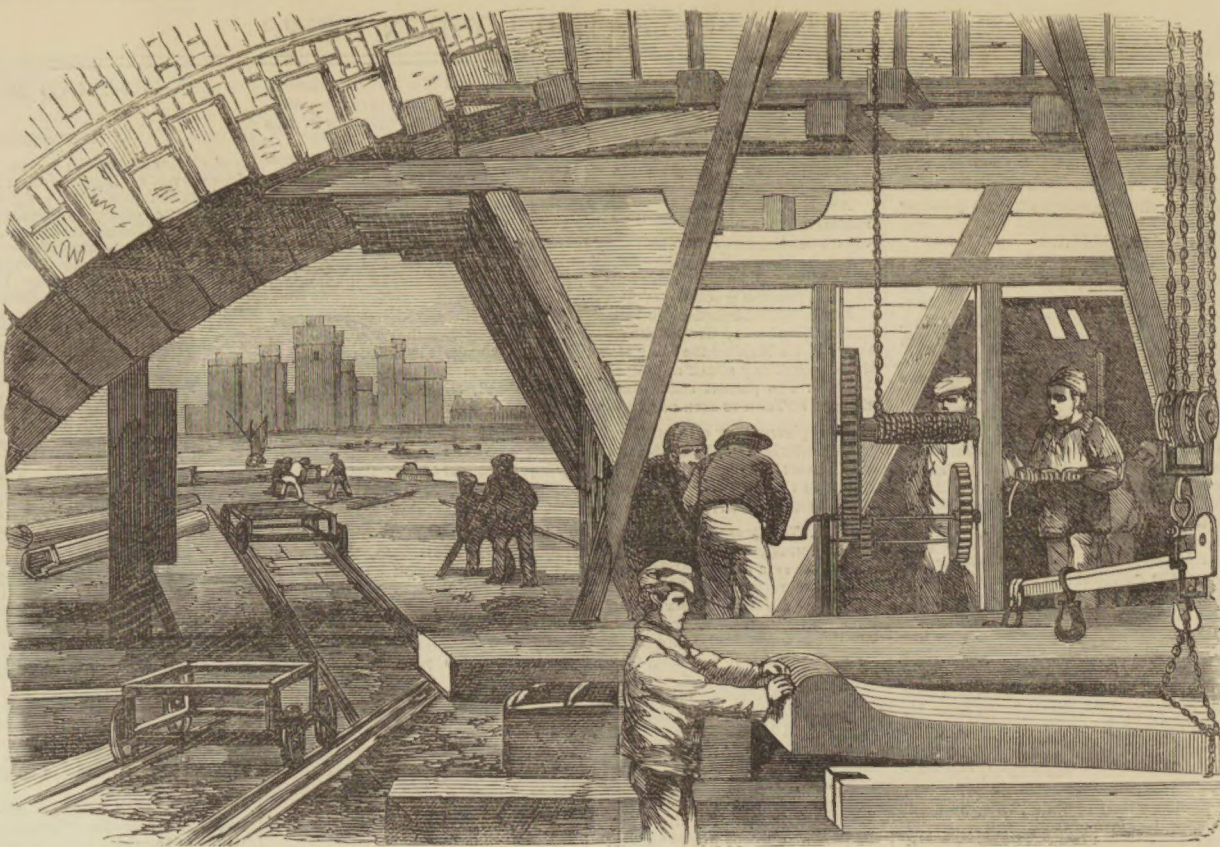
**LOSS OF THE STEAM-SHIP "MERCURY."**—The *Mercury* left Bordeaux on the 10th ult., with a cargo of clover-seed, wine, brandy, &c., for London, and at half-past nine the next evening was run into by a large outward-bound barque, apparently French, which struck the vessel amidships, stopped her engines in ten minutes, and caused her to sink within half an hour. The barque kept her course. The crew, twenty-two in two boats, which were kept afloat with great difficulty, continued in the Bay of Biscay twenty hours without water until relieved by the barque *Johanna*, of Hartlepool, which conveyed them to Gibraltar; the master, four men, and the stewardess, took passage in the *Mauritius*, three hands joined her crew, and thirteen were left at Gibraltar.



## WORKS AT WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE.

LITTLE more than a century has elapsed since the present Westminster-bridge was opened for public use. It was designed by Mr. Labelye, a Swiss architect, and was commenced on the 29th of January, 1739: it occupied eleven years and nine months in its execution, and was opened at midnight on the 17th November, 1750. It consists of thirteen arches, varying in span, from 76 feet to 52 feet, with two small arches at the abutments of 26 feet span. The total water-way of the thirteen arches is 820 feet at the springing line. The money raised for the construction of the Bridge was £889,500—of which the sum of £197,500 was raised by lottery, and £192,000 by Parliamentary grants.

In the popular accounts given of the Bridge at the time of its erection it is described as one of the finest in the world; "that there is not, perhaps, another Bridge in the whole world that can be compared with it; that all the piers were laid at a considerable depth under the bed of the river, in a hard bed of gravel, which never requires piling, whereas the usual method of building stone and brick bridges over large rivers is to build them upon stilts, that is, driving piles in the bed of the river, sawing their heads off at low-water mark, and after, above them, laying some planks to rest the piers upon." The security for passengers walking through the streets of London at night at the time of the opening of this Bridge may be gathered from the following extract from a work written at the period:—



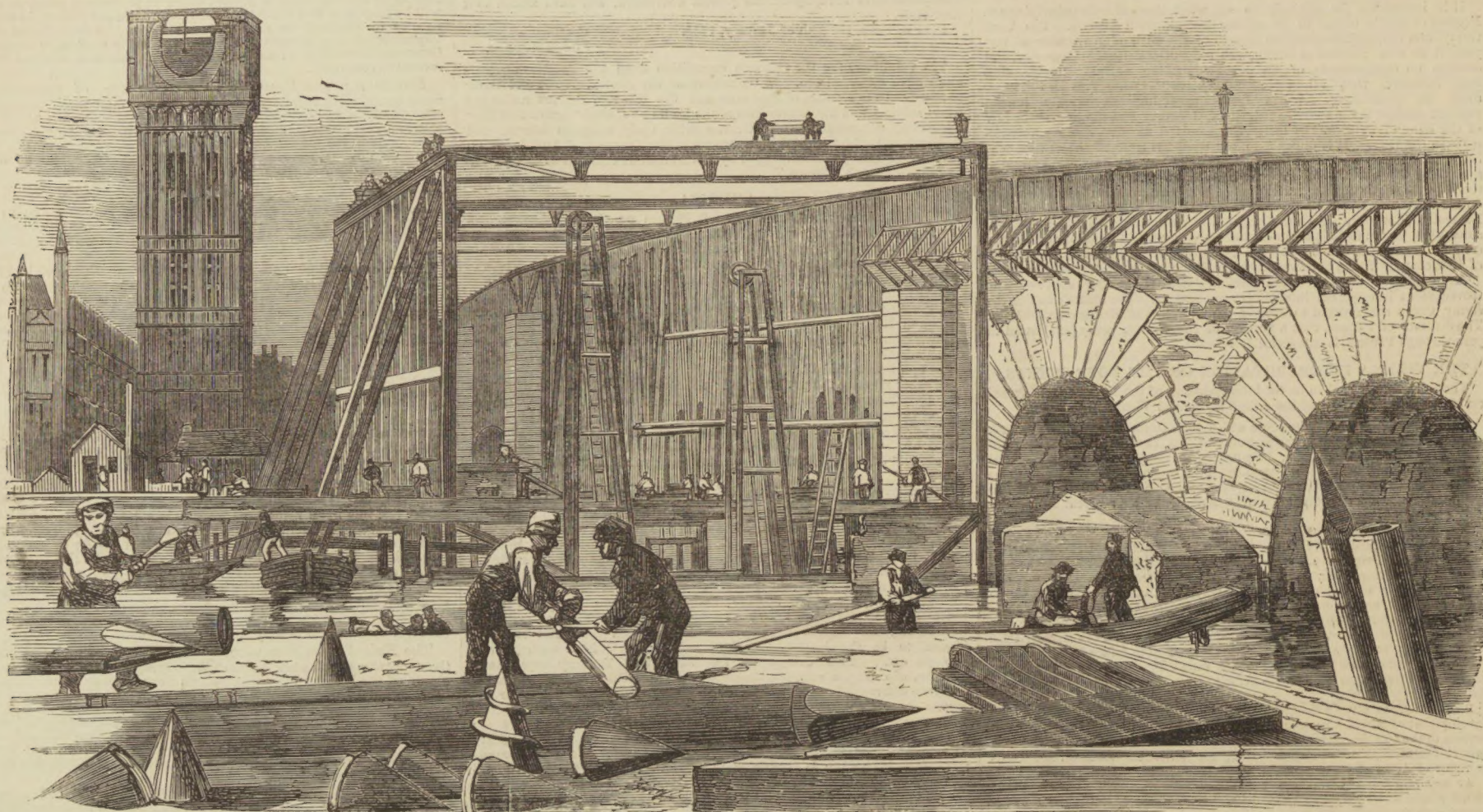
PART OF THE TIMBER PLATFORM FOR DEPOSITING MATERIALS FOR THE NEW BRIDGE.

A guard, consisting of twelve watchmen, is appointed for the security of the passage over this bridge. They are to be upon duty from the close of day every night till the opening of the next morning. We walk the public streets with so much danger in these hours that this provision was extremely necessary upon a bridge of so great length, which is not to be transformed into a street. The recesses over each pier, which are built in the form of alcoves, and designed as places of shelter in bad weather, of retirement in case of an accidental danger or difficulty in the passage, might have otherwise served for places of ambush or robbers and cut-throats; though, indeed, even these occupations, which thrive so much in our time, could not have been followed here without hazard, as there is no way of escaping but at the two ends of the bridge.

The foundations above referred to, with the omission of the said stilts, proved so defective, that, in 1747, one of the piers sunk 16 inches, which rendered necessary the reconstruction of two of the arches, and considerably delayed the completion of the structure.

The condition of the river when the Bridge was built was governed by the dam formed by the piers and starlings of old London-bridge which impeded the passage of the flood tide, and also prevented the free flow of the ebb, so that, at the low water of spring tides, the difference of level of the Thames above and below London-bridge amounted to more than 5 feet, causing a fall through London-bridge so dangerous to passengers in boats, that, on an average, about fifty people were drowned, annually, in passing under the arches, or, as it was called "shooting the bridge."

Even before London-bridge was removed the foundations of West-



STAGING AND TRAVELLER ON THE UPPER SIDE OF THE OLD BRIDGE.

minster-bridge were found to be insecure; but, on the removal of old London-bridge, and the consequent change in the bed of the river by the scour of the ebb tide, the bed of the river at Westminster-bridge was so much lowered that expensive repairs became necessary for maintaining the structure. These repairs, the maintenance of the Bridge, and the works which were undertaken for the widening of the Bridge twelve feet, on an extension of the old piers, caused a total expenditure from 1810 to 1853 of upwards of £200,000.

The main features in Mr. Page's design of the new Bridge have been governed by the character and low level of the Houses of Parliament, and the consideration of accommodating the important land traffic which is carried on over Westminster-bridge; and, that the architectural appearance of the Bridge should not be discordant with the Houses of Parliament, the mouldings and ornamental parts are from sketches given by Sir Charles Barry. To fulfil the requirements of a Bridge in this position, the arches are of moderate span, the centre arch being not more than 120 feet. The summit of the roadway of the new Bridge will thus be obtained at a level ten feet below the level of the present roadway.

The width of the new Bridge will be 85 feet, out of which there will be two footpaths, each 15 feet in width. The carriage-way will be divided by a kerb in the centre, to confine the traffic to its proper lines, and thus avoid the confusion and delay caused in the thoroughfares by the irregular tracks which each carman, uncontrolled, chooses for himself.



DREDGING TRENCH FOR THE CAST-IRON CASING.

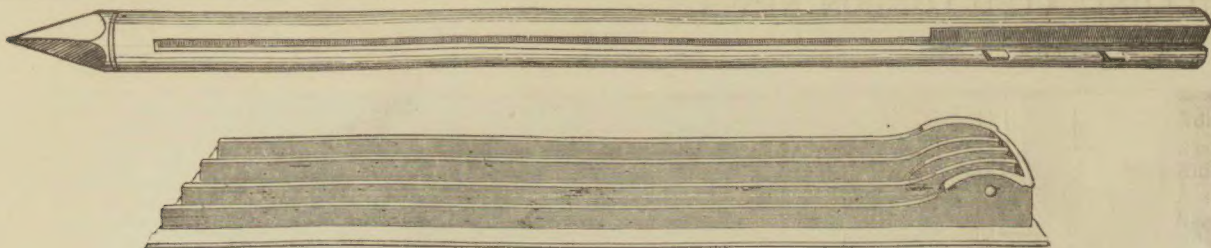
The width of the new Bridge being 85 feet, it will be 40 feet wider than the present Bridge; the line of the northern (or down-stream) parapet will coincide with the north face of the present Bridge, and the additional 40 feet in width will be set off on the south (or up-stream) side, towards the Houses of Parliament; the width of 85 feet will then be continued along Bridge-street, Westminster, and along Bridge-street, Lambeth, as far as Stangate, forming the approaches to the new Bridge. The inclination of the roadway of the Bridge will also be considerably reduced; the steepest gradient of the new Bridge being 1 in 54, instead of 1 in 24, as at present. The new Bridge will consist of seven arches, having a water-way of 748 feet, the span and rise of each arch being these—the centre arch is 120 feet span, and 18 feet rise; the two next are 115 feet span, and 17 feet 3 inches rise; the next two are 105 feet span, and 15 feet 7 inches rise; and the two arches adjoining the abutments are 94 feet 6 inches span, and 14 feet rise. The thickness of the piers of the centre arch at the springing is 10 feet 6 inches, and the other piers are respectively 10 feet 3 inches, and 10 feet thick. The position of the abutments of the Bridge is regulated by the proposed line of embankment of the Thames, but the length of the roadway from the present shore is 1160 feet. Assertions have been made at various times that the bed of the river at the present Bridge was not fitted for the foundations of a new Bridge; in short, that it was a rotten foundation. So far from this being the case the borings made under Mr. Page's direction for the Commissioners of her





NEW WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE.—GENERAL VIEW.—THOMAS PAGE, ENGINEER.





CAST-IRON PILE AND PLATE.

Majesty's Works (before the drawings for the Bridge were completed) proved that a good bed of clay lies at depths of from 19 to 14 feet below the low-water line—some of the borings were carried to a depth of 60 feet below the surface of the clay, which was all found to be of a uniform character.

Having described the general features of the Bridge, some account of the mode of forming the foundation may be interesting. Instead of the stilts or bearing-piles being avoided, they are introduced in close proximity to each other, and driven down with a ram weighing a ton, until ten blows with a fall of nine feet move the pile only half an inch. They are of English elm timber, 14 inches square, and on an average 34 feet long. The number in the whole structure 922, besides an additional number of 100 for sheet piling. The total quantity of timber in the piling will be nearly 50,000 cubic feet.

The piers and abutments are cased with strong cast-iron piles and plates; the piles are driven 18 feet, and the plates 15 feet, into the bed of the river. There are around the foundations of each pier forty-four cast-iron piles, and forty-four plates, and they enclose a space 16 feet wide and 109 feet long from point to point of cutwaters. The piles are 26 feet long and 15 inches diameter, and weigh two tons; the plates are 4 feet 3 inches wide, and 15 feet long, and weigh 37 cwt.; they slide in grooves in the piles, and when in place the top flanges of the plates are 6 feet below low water, and they are to be continued above that level to the top of the piles, viz., 2 feet above low water by granite slabs, 18 inches thick, resting on the plates and supported by the piles. The total number of cast-iron piles is 318, and the number of plates is 316; and the total weight of the casing is 1320 tons. The piles are tied together by iron bars four inches deep and one inch thick. The space enclosed by the casing is to be, after the timber-bearing piles have been driven, of which there are eighty-five for each pier, cleared of all loose ground, and filled up solid with concrete to the height of the top of the iron piles. On the floor thus obtained, granite blocks of seven tons weight will be laid, and will form the base for the piers. The piers are to be of brick, faced with stone. The quantity of brickwork in the whole structure will be 7250 cubic yards; and the total quantity of stone, of which there will be three kinds—viz., granite, Bramley-fall, and Portland

—will be 180,000 cubic feet; and the total quantity of concrete will be 10,000 cubic yards. The ribs forming the arches are fifteen in number for each arch. The centre portion of them, extending to a length of nearly one-half the span, will be of wrought iron, and the remainder is to be of cast iron. The weight of cast iron in the whole of the ribs will be 1250 tons, and the weight of wrought iron will be 400 tons. The total weight of the iron-work above high-water line will be 3600 tons, of which 700 tons will be of wrought iron. The bearers which support the roadway in connection with the wrought iron of the ribs will be likewise of wrought iron, and the remainder is to be of cast iron. These bearers serve to brace and stiffen the ribs as well as to support the roadway. The ribs are further braced with diagonal and cross frames. The bearers are placed at distances of 3 feet, and upon them will be laid a floor of oak planking 4 inches thick, which will be covered with a layer of asphalt 2 inches thick, and upon which the granite pitching forming the roadway will be laid. The structure will therefore rest on a foundation of bearing-piles, as in the case of London, Southwark, and Waterloo Bridges; but the introduction of the iron piles and plates allows the foundation to be made without the expense of cofferdams. A similar mode of forming the foundations was used by the engineer in the Bridges of Windsor and Chelsea. It may also be observed that any arrangement of foundation which would have rendered cofferdams necessary would have precluded the practicability of constructing the new Bridge without resorting to a temporary bridge.

The works at present are being proceeded with by the contractor, Mr. Mare, the celebrated shipbuilder of Blackwall, on the up-stream side of the present Bridge, with the object of completing so much of the new Bridge on the south side of the present as will allow the traffic to be diverted from the old Bridge, which can then be removed for the completion of the new structure.

We have reason to believe that in reconciling the conflicting interests of land traffic and water traffic in the engineering arrangements of the new Bridge, and in providing that the structure should accord to a certain extent with the Houses of Parliament, the public are much indebted to the attention and judgment of Sir William Molesworth, Chief Commissioner of her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Feb. 4.—Septuagesima Sunday.  
MONDAY, 5.—St. Agatha. Sir Robert Peel born, 1788.  
TUESDAY, 6.—Dr. Priestley died, 1804.  
WEDNESDAY, 7.—Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle, 1587.  
THURSDAY, 8.—Hall-Quarter-day.  
FRIDAY, 9.—  
SATURDAY, 10.—Queen Victoria married, 1840.

HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 10.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M	A	M	A	M	A	M
h	m	h	m	h	m	h
3 42	3 56	4 11	4 27	4 43	4 57	5 13
5 13	5 27	5 43	5 57	6 13	6 27	6 43
6 43	6 57	7 13	7 27	7 43	7 57	8 13

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We regret that the Photographs of the Annual Canadian Provincial Show, held in the town of London, Canada West, reached us too late to be available for engraving.

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1855.

AFTER the sudden, and we cannot but say the disastrous, collapse of the Aberdeen Administration, her Majesty sent for the Earl of Derby; and his Lordship undertook to form a Ministry, and had lengthened interviews with Lord Palmerston. Lord Derby had a difficult task before him; but he would have met with no factious opposition. On the contrary, he would have received all possible aid and support. It was not by his act, or by that of his followers in either House, that the late Ministry was hurled from power, with an ignominy which, as a body, they little merited. The crisis was not of his making; and if he had been enabled to form a Government which might fairly have claimed the confidence of the nation, that confidence, so far from being withheld, would have been lavished upon him.

The choice of the Queen, so suddenly deprived of councillors, was extremely limited. Her Majesty could not primarily have sent for Lord Palmerston, though ultimately, and contingent upon the failure of Lord Derby, that was the only course left open; for Lord Palmerston shared the condemnation of a Parliamentary majority as much as Lord Aberdeen or the Duke of Newcastle, or any other Minister offered up as a victim to appease a clamorous and offended people. It is true that Lord John Russell might have been sent for; and it is likely that his Lordship, and the ancient Whigs who acknowledge his leadership, might have considered themselves for awhile the masters of the situation. But this delusion, if it ever existed, must have been speedily dispelled by the unmistakable utterances of public opinion—in the Houses of Parliament—in the press—in the Clubs—and at the very street corners. Lord John Russell was Premier for nearly six years, during which period Anility, Nepotism, and slumberous Inefficiency "reigned, rioted, and revelled" in Downing-street and Whitehall. His Administration collapsed amid all but universal contempt—leaving nothing behind it but a bad reputation. The manner, too, in which this doughty and too daring David had slain the Goliath whose servant and friend he had so long been was not such as to inspire confidence in any men beyond the confines of the families of Russell, Elliot, and Grey. His Lordship might have undertaken the task of forming a Ministry; but who, after the resignation of Thursday in last week, and the Parliamentary statements of the following Monday, would have consented to serve under him? A few of the old circle of familiar friends, close relations, and near connections, might have enlisted under his banner, and, looking upon office as their natural inheritance, might have taken possession as a matter of

course; but the men of business, of genius, of high standing, and of a truly honourable ambition, would have held aloof, lest their business habits should have been nullified, their genius degraded, their political position endangered, and their high ambition turned to dishonourable uses. Such an Administration could not, it is to be presumed, have included Lord Palmerston—the man, above all other men, whom the country desires to see in the position either of Premier, of War Minister, or of Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Such a Ministry, if it had been formed, could not, without Lord Palmerston and some others, have remained in existence for a month; and, at this perilous emergency, a month, or even a week, or a day, is too precious to be wasted in wretched experiments certain to lead to political failure, if not to national calamity and disgrace.

The present crisis of political affairs may well induce the country to ask what becomes of the outcry against COALITION? If there is to be no coalition, no Ministry can stand for an hour. By means of a coalition—and by no other means whatever—can a strong and durable Government be formed. Toryism is as dead as Whiggism; and "Protection" is almost as obsolete as the claim of the Stuarts. The country has but one interest, one business, one thought—which is, to carry on the war to a triumphant issue—to remedy past evils in the management of the army, and to place our public departments, civil and military, in effective working order. This is the task, and a new and powerful Coalition is the means to accomplish it. As the stupid clamour against coalition came from the immediate adherents and friends of Lord Derby, we may suppose that we shall hear no more of it now that Lord Derby has tried to effect a coalition, and failed in the attempt.

What the country demands at this instant—and demands in a voice which is not to be mistaken—is a Ministry of vigorous men, who, rising with the grandest occasion ever presented to a Government, will ruthlessly sacrifice convention, routine, pedantry, family claims, and jobbery in one great holocaust to the Nemesis of the hour; and, nerved with that strength which comes to the aid of those alone who are actuated by intense and united conviction, will concentrate the might of the nation upon the Russian war. This is a great demand, but it is peremptory. Worse evils than the fall of a Ministry will menace a class whose representatives shall dispute one jot or one tittle of that demand.

The original and capital sin of our present (or we may say, late) system of administration, lies in its being split up into a score of complicated and antagonistic responsibilities. The principle of the new administrative system must be to have as few responsibilities as possible; to consign the general direction of the war to what most nearly approaches to a Dictatorship—that authority being enabled to carry out its designs by the aid of an intelligent, indefatigable, but subservient executive. Fewer councils and more orders should be the rule of the incoming men: and such councils should (*pace* Mr. Disraeli) be Venetian in the small number of their constituents; while the orders should emanate from a single power, to which colleagues have subordinated their own for an especial and patriotic purpose. This condition may be startling; but is it so startling as the sight of a glorious army ruined in strict adherence to the constitution? This abnormal arrangement is the demand of every Englishman at this moment, and is, moreover, the only rational course in a frightful emergency. Precedent must be trampled down in the foul mire of Balaclava. Would that nothing more precious had perished there!

With these convictions we can await with hopeful composure the announcement of a new Coalition and a new Ministry. In the words of Achilles before the Grecian Lords, after his coalition with the Agamemnonites, "All we ask is War."

M. VON MANTEUFFEL, on behalf of the King of Prussia, has endeavoured to reply to the trenchant and able circular of M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The Prussian Minister has a bad cause; but, as in

duty bound, he has endeavoured to make the best of it. The same undignified see-saw which has characterised all the proceedings of the Prussian Government prior and subsequent to the war pervades the document. The King cannot yet discover the policy he ought to pursue. He balances between his love for the Czar and his fear of the Allies. Were it not that he is jealous of the young Emperor of Austria, and the position he has assumed at the head of the great German people, it is possible that the King would even yet see the line of duty which glitters straight and clear before him; but jealousy, if not imbecility, blinds his eyes, and he can see nothing but Russia, and the supposed necessity of standing between the Czar and the rest of Europe. M. Von Manteuffel's attempt to parry the home-thrust of M. Drouyn de Lhuys—that Prussia ceases to be a great Power when she ceases to act as becomes a State which would maintain that high position—is ineffectual. Prussia is *de facto* a small Power so long as King Frederick William enacts his present part; and, in the estimation of the world, little Sardinia and her gallant Monarch are far greater than Prussia. The King's demand to participate in the Conference at Vienna cannot be allowed, although M. Von Manteuffel pertinaciously insists upon it. As an avowed ally of Russia, or an equally avowed ally of Great Britain and France, the claim would not be refused; but, as a go-between, the King has no footing, and must stand aside until he learn decision and common honesty.

The latest telegraphic news from Berlin would lead to the inference that he is about to declare himself in favour of the Czar. The Diet at Frankfort, acting under Prussian influence, has refused the mobilisation of the German contingent demanded by Austria; but the Prussian Government has ordered the mobilisation of the Prussian army, and decreed the occupation of the provinces of Saxony and Silesia by the armies forming the Fourth and Sixth Military Divisions. The King has also rejected the demand of France that a portion of the French army be allowed to pass through Prussia. Should these despatches prove to be true, the war will be extended; and the King of Prussia will have more than enough on his hands to defend himself against the French on the Rhine, and against his own subjects in Berlin.

## THE COURT.

The non-political incidents of Court life have presented no features of interest beyond the first meeting of her Majesty with the Duke of Cambridge, which took place on Wednesday, at Buckingham Palace, on the occasion of the Queen's flying visit to London.

His Highness the Maharajah Duleep Singh, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Lord Ernest Bruce, and the Rev. Arthur Penrhyn Stanley have been among the visitors at Windsor Castle during the week.

The Marchioness of Ely has succeeded the Duchess of Wellington as the Lady in Waiting. Lord Waterpark and Major-General Berkeley Drummond have succeeded Lord Rivers and Mr. J. R. Ormsby Gore as the Lord and Groom in Waiting.

As at present arranged, her Majesty the Queen and her Royal Highness Prince Albert, accompanied by the younger branches of the Royal Family, will take their departure from Windsor Castle on or about the 14th instant, for Buckingham Palace.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duchesses of Cambridge and the Princess Mary and the Duke of Cambridge visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester on Wednesday, at her residence, Gloucester-house, Piccadilly.

His Excellency the Ambassador of France and the Countess Walewska entertained a small circle at dinner at Albert-gate House on Saturday, among whom were her Excellency the Austrian Minister and the Countess Colloredo, Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston, &c.

His Excellency Baron Von Usedom and the Baroness Von Usedom have left England on their return to Berlin. His Excellency sailed from Dover on Saturday.

POLITICAL COINCIDENCE.—It is a remarkable coincidence that 305 was the number of each of the majorities in the divisions which drove Lord Derby and Lord Aberdeen respectively from power.

VISITORS TO PUBLIC PLACES.—From a return moved for by Mr. Hume, and recently issued, the following details are taken:—The number of visitors to the Tower of London for the year ending February 1, 1854, was 52,075; and the money paid, £1301 17s. 6d. The expenditure for 1853 was £1481 7s. At Hampton Court the number of visitors in 1853 was 180,753. At Kew Gardens, on week days, 210,741; on Sundays, 120,469; total, 331,210. At Westminster Abbey, £370 9s. was collected in 1853. The visitors in the same year to the British Museum were 661,113; the readers, 67,794. To the National Gallery there were 627,740 visitors; to the Vernon Gallery, 249,992; to the Museum of Practical Geology, 22,713.

THE KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—Letters from Honolulu affirm that it is the general belief there that the annexation of the Sandwich Islands to the United States is now fully determined upon; that the French and English representatives have given up opposing it; and that the only delay on the part of the "Cabinet" in signing the treaty is caused by the absence of Prince Alexander Liholihio, the heir-apparent. The "Prince" has been some time since on the neighbouring island of Hawaii, branding his cattle and attending to some other rural matters on his estate. This gentleman is the son of an inferior official by a lady of high rank, nearly related to the King, who, having no children of his own, adopted the family of the lucky official—namely, Princes Alexander and Lot, and Princess Victoria. The heir-apparent is said to be slightly opposed to the treaty; but as he is afflicted with "some little pecuniary embarrassments," which might be relieved by his yielding, and as the popular feeling in favour of annexation is so strong that if the King were to die the people would at once declare for annexation; and, finally, as the reigning Monarch is said to be "almost continually in liquor," and has in all probability but a short lease of life, the prospects of annexation are likely to be soon realised. To hurry this desirable consummation, however, the United States Commissioner had addressed a peremptory letter to the Minister of Foreign Relations, insisting upon the immediate conclusion of the treaty. In consequence of this demand, a special messenger had been dispatched to bring home the Prince; and it was fully expected that the treaty would reach San Francisco, on its way to Washington, in a few days. The fact is that the islands are already essentially American. There is a considerable, influential, and wealthy American population. The trade is in the hands of Americans. The majority of vessels frequenting the islands is American, the most important being the North Pacific whalers. Americans fill many of the offices. There are American courts of law, in which American lawyers engross the practice; American influence is paramount; the natives recognise American superiority. These facts account for what is termed "the popular feeling in favour of annexation." From all accounts regarding the condition of the natives, and the general state of the country under the mockery of royalty now existing, annexation would, perhaps, be the best thing that could happen; and the abolition of the "Court," and all the tomfoolery attendant upon it, would only injure the prospects of some few foreign adventurers who have for a long time lived upon it and played upon the King. This potentate himself has been so corrupted by associating with sea captains as to be quite unfit to take care of himself.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The complete returns obtained under the Scottish Agricultural Statistical Inquiry, have been forwarded by Mr. Hall Maxwell to the Board of Trade. It is creditable to the liberality and intelligence of the farmers of Scotland—that in this, the first year of the inquiry, the arrears of returns only amounted to about one-eighth of one per cent of the whole. Schedules were issued to about 60,000 farmers, and, with the exception of about seventy, the whole of these have now been accounted for.

WILLIAM IV. AND ST. JAMES'S PALACE CLOCK.—When the gatehouse was repaired in 1831 the clock was removed, and not put up again, on account of the roof being reported unsafe to carry the weight. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood memorialised William IV. for the replacement of the timekeeper; when the King, having ascertained its weight, shrewdly inquired how, if the palace roof was not strong enough to carry the clock, it was safe for the number of persons occasionally seen upon it to witness processions, &c.? The clock was forthwith replaced, and a minute-hand was added, with new dials: the original dials were of wainscot, in a great number of very small pieces, curiously dovetailed together.—*Curiosities of London* (just published).



## THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

A Cabinet Council was held on Tuesday, at the Foreign-office, Downing-street. It was attended by all the Ministers with the exception of Sir James Graham (who was indisposed). The Council sat one hour.

The Earl of Aberdeen left town after the Cabinet Council, for Windsor Castle, to have an audience of the Queen. The noble Earl returned to town soon after six o'clock in the evening.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir William Molesworth, and Mr. Sidney Herbert, had interviews in the morning with the Earl of Aberdeen, at Argyl-house.

Mr. Sidney Herbert had an interview, also, in the morning with the Duke of Newcastle, at the War-office; prior to which the right hon. gentleman had a lengthened consultation with Lord Palmerston, at his residence in Carlton-gardens.

The Marquis of Lansdowne received Sir George Grey at his residence in Berkeley-square in the morning, and had a lengthened consultation with the right hon. gentleman. Just before Sir George Grey left, Earl Granville was admitted to an interview, and remained with the noble Marquis some time after Sir George Grey's departure. It was very generally anticipated through town that the Marquis of Lansdowne would be sent for by her Majesty.

Lord Palmerston received no political visitors on Tuesday morning, with the exception of Mr. Sidney Herbert. His Lordship, having read the papers transmitted to him, proceeded about twelve o'clock to the Home-office for the transaction of business.

Lord J. Russell had no political visitors on Tuesday, and did not leave his house.

Sir James Graham was confined to his bed through indisposition, and was consequently unable to take any active part in the settlement of the Ministerial difficulties.

Lord Derby on Tuesday evening received the Queen's commands to attend her Majesty at Buckingham Palace at half-past eleven next morning.

Her Majesty arrived at Buckingham Palace shortly after eleven o'clock. The Queen was accompanied by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, but by no other members of the Royal family.

Within half an hour of her Majesty's arrival in London the Earl of Derby drove up, and was immediately afterwards admitted to an audience of her Majesty, with whom he remained in consultation an hour and a half.

The noble Earl, after leaving the Palace, drove to Lord Palmerston's residence in Piccadilly, and had a lengthened interview with his Lordship.

Lord Derby, after an interview with Lord Palmerston, which lasted until two o'clock, returned to St. James's-square.

Several "rumours" were current in the Clubs in the course of the forenoon. One rumour was that Lord Derby had consented to undertake the formation of a Government, provided Lord Palmerston would accept the office of Minister of War. Another was, that the noble Earl had consented to form an alliance with the Peelite portion of the late Cabinet, giving to Mr. Gladstone the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, to Mr. Sidney Herbert the Secretaryship of War, with an office to the Duke of Newcastle. In order that this arrangement may be carried into effect, Mr. Disraeli is said to have consented to take the Secretaryship of State for Foreign Affairs.

Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, and the Ladies and Gentlemen in Waiting, left Buckingham Palace in two of the Queen's carriages, at eight minutes before three o'clock in the afternoon, for the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway, and returned by a special train to Windsor Castle. The Royal suite consisted of the Marchioness of Ely, Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, Major-General the Hon. Charles Grey, Colonel Seymour, and the Master of the Household. The Queen and Prince Albert were conducted to their carriage by the Earl Spencer, Lord Steward.

Immediately after her arrival at Windsor her Majesty dispatched a special messenger to Lord Derby. The messenger arrived at the noble Lord's residence in St. James's-square at nine o'clock, and took back a despatch in return.

The Countess of Derby and Lady Emma Stanley arrived in St. James's-square, from Knowsley, on Thursday.

At ten o'clock on Thursday morning the Earl of Derby left his residence, and called upon Mr. Disraeli at Grosvenor-gate. After remaining with the right hon. gentleman a few minutes, his Lordship proceeded to the Great Western Railway, and thence by special train to Windsor.

The noble Lord, having had an audience with her Majesty, returned to London, arriving at Paddington station at half-past two o'clock.

There were no interviews between the noble Lord and any members of the Whig or Peelite party on Thursday morning.

On Lord Derby's return to town, at twenty minutes past two, he proceeded to the residence of Mr. Disraeli at Grosvenor-gate.

At two o'clock a Queen's messenger arrived at Lansdowne-house, bearing a despatch commanding the attendance of the Marquis of Lansdowne at Windsor Castle.

The noble Marquis immediately left London for Windsor, and remained the guest of her Majesty during Thursday night.

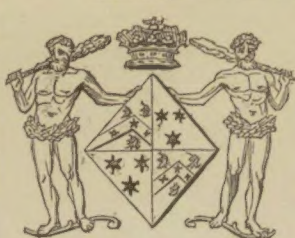
**GENERAL SIR DE LACY EVANS, K.C.B.**—On Thursday, at one o'clock, a deputation of electors of the City of Westminster waited upon General Sir De Lacy Evans, by appointment, at his residence in Bryanston-square, for the purpose of presenting that gallant officer with an address, expressive of their admiration of the heroic services he has recently rendered to his country in the Crimea, and of their gratification at his safe return to his native land. The deputation, which included a very large number of the most influential members of the city, assembled at the residence of Sir John Villiers Shelley, M.P., in Park-lane, whence they proceeded in a body to Sir De Lacy Evans's residence in Bryanston-square.

**THE BLENHEIM FREE DISPENSARY.**—The nineteenth anniversary ball of this excellent institution was held at Willis's Rooms, on Monday evening, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., an office filled for many years by the lamented Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P. The ball was very numerously attended by the friends of this very efficient charity.

**LONDON WATER SUPPLY.**—At the meeting of the Society of Arts on Wednesday last, Mr. Homersham, M. Inst. C.E., read a paper "On the Chalk Strata, considered as a Source for the Supply of Water to the Metropolis." He commenced by stating that in many districts of Great Britain, where the soil rests upon clay, millstone, or other matter impermeable to water, it is usual to collect the water flowing off the ground after heavy rains in very large reservoirs, to supply canals and towns. Such a reservoir exists in the valley of the Brent, situated about 5½ miles in a north-westerly direction from Cumberland-gate, Hyde-park, and is used to stow the superabundant rain-water flowing off an extensive district of the London clay geological formation; the surface of which is principally covered with grass. On the other hand, where the soil rests upon chalk—as on the Chiltern ridge and on the north downs—the heaviest rain, instead of flowing off, sinks into the ground as soon as it falls, giving back little to support vegetation, as is evident when the luxuriant vegetation on the London clay is compared with the scanty vegetation on the chalk downs. The notoriously moist character of the air over a clay district, and the drying character of the air over a chalk district, were instanced as familiar proofs that but little of the rain-fall was evaporated from the surface of a chalk country compared with a clay country. The author showed that, while on a clay district, 2000 yards in length of stream and river courses existed per square mile, to say nothing of great lengths of drains and ditches, on the chalk there was only 750 yards of stream and river courses, and no drains or ditches. The bridges crossing clay streams were shown from various examples to have from five to ten times as much waterway as bridges crossing chalk streams, notwithstanding the clay bridges were frequently choked with water, while the chalk bridges were never nearly full. The author stated that the amount of water flowing down clay streams, fed by a large area of drainage ground, was larger in dry weather than from a chalk stream with a similar area of drainage. As much as 200 square miles of chalk country lying altogether was pointed out to the north of London without a spring, stream, or river upon it. From these well-authenticated facts it followed that the rain sank into the chalk and flowed out through the interstices between the planes of stratification that lead direct to the sea. The water was traced between high and low tide flowing into the sea up through the beach where the chalk was exposed, as at Dover, Deal, Brighton, &c. The proposal of the author was that, before the water reached the sea, it should be intercepted for the supply of the metropolis, for which it is well adapted, from its even and agreeable temperature, its clearness, its aëration, and freedom from organic matter. The only drawback to its quality in this respect consisted in the water holding in invisible solution about 17½ grains of chalk per gallon, as bicarbonate of lime; this chalk, however, could be easily withdrawn from the water by a process invented by Dr. Clark, of Aberdeen, without injuring the other good qualities of the water. The author had lately constructed works that were now supplying the important parishes of Plumstead, Woolwich, and Charlton with water derived from the chalk strata after having the chalk taken out of it by Dr. Clark's process. The water is much liked by the consumers for all purposes—washing, bathing, and drinking. Practically an inexhaustible supply of pure soft water is thus within the reach of the metropolis.

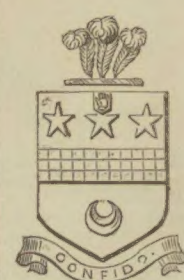
## OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

## HARRIET, DUCHESS DOWAGER OF ROXBURGHE.



HER Grace (who died on the 19th ult., at Brighton, aged seventy-seven) was daughter of Benjamin Charlewood, Esq., of Windlesham. She became the second wife of the late Duke of Roxburghe 28th July, 1807, and had by him an only child, James Henry, present Duke. Her Grace married, secondly, 14th November, 1826, Lieut.-Colonel Walter Frederick O'Reilly, C.B., younger brother of the late William O'Reilly, Esq., of Knock Abbey Castle, county Louth, and was again left a widow in March, 1844.

## SIR JOHN BOYD, BART.



THE death of this baronet occurred on the 19th ult., at Boulogne. Sir John was born June 5, 1786, the elder son of the second baronet, Sir John Boyd, of Danson-hill, by Margaret, his wife, fifth daughter of the Right Hon. Thomas Harley, son of Edward, third Earl of Oxford. He succeeded to the title May 30th, 1815, and married, September, 22nd, 1818, Harriet, daughter of Hugh Boyd, Esq., of Ballycastle, county Antrim; by whom he leaves a daughter, Henrietta, wife of Lieut.-Colonel Brooke Taylor, and two sons—the elder the present Sir John Augustus Boyd, Bart., born July 26th, 1819, married, in 1850, Honora Mary, third daughter of the late Charles B. Calmady, Esq., of Langdon Hall, Devon, and has issue.

## JOHN RALPH FENWICK, ESQ., M.D.

DR. FENWICK, whose age approximated closely to that of the late venerable Dr. Routh, died on the 11th ult., at his residence in the North Bailey, Durham, in the ninety-fourth year of his age. He was born November 14, 1761, the younger son of the late John Fenwick, Esq., M.D., of Morpeth, by Mary, his wife, daughter of John Thornton, Esq., of Netherwitton, Northumberland. Having adopted the medical profession, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Physic, he settled at Durham about the year 1790, and, distinguished by his skill, courtesy, and information, soon became one of the leading physicians of that city. In 1812, shortly after his marriage with Dorothy, eldest daughter and coheir of Robert Spearman, Esq., of Old Acres, he retired from practice, and devoted much of his time and attention to politics. He was a Liberal in the most honourable signification of the term, a bold and eloquent advocate of constitutional freedom, a staunch supporter of Reform, and a never-failing enemy of tyranny and oppression wherever he found them to exist. His life embraced a period of momentous events. At the time that he entered the world the Seven Years' War was raging, and Frederick the Great gaining his great victories; Louis XV. was revelling in his "Parc aux Cerfs," and George III. only just ascending the throne. Captain Cook had not set out on his first voyage of discovery, the United States were still a loyal colony of England, and Fox, Pitt, and Burke had not yet appeared in the arena of politics. Dr. Fenwick was twenty years old when Elliott defended Gibraltar; nearly forty when Bonaparte commenced his brilliant career; and yet he survived to see the restoration of Napoleon's dynasty to the French throne, and the cordial union of England and France.

Dr. Fenwick was, for many years, a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Durham, and formerly commanded, as Lieutenant-Colonel, the Durham Volunteers. As he leaves no issue, his property devolves on his nephew, the present James Thomas Fenwick, Esq., M.D.

## MR. SERJEANT D'O'LYLY.

THOMAS D'O'LYLY, Serjeant-at-law, died at Rottingdean, on the 14th ult. The family of which the learned Serjeant was the head is one of the oldest in the kingdom, the D'O'lylys, or D'Oyllys, of Oully le Vicomte, near Lisieux, in Normandy, being historically mentioned as having held high rank among the nobles of their country two hundred years before 1066; in which year, accompanying the Conqueror, they transferred their name and fortunes to the soil of England. Their descendant and representative, Serjeant Thomas D'O'lyly, the subject of this notice, was the eldest son of the Venerable Matthias D'O'lyly, Rector of Buxted and Archdeacon of Lewes, Sussex, by Mary, his wife, one of the two daughters (coheirresses) of George Poughier, Esq., of Leicester. Thomas D'O'lyly was born in London the 16th November, 1772; he was educated at Westminster and Christchurch, and was ultimately Fellow of All Souls', Oxford. He was called to the bar the 9th Nov., 1798, and became a Serjeant in 1819, and obtained a patent of precedence. The Serjeant married, in 1820, Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Simons, Rector of Ickham, by whom he had one son and two daughters, who are all living. The Serjeant was remarkable for combining the profoundest legal attainments with a strong love and ability for those rural pursuits among which he had been brought up. In Sussex he will long be remembered, not only as one of the most eminent Chairmen of Quarter Sessions (a post which he held there for many years), but as a true and kind friend and neighbour, and a worthy and thorough English country gentleman. The only literary work with which Mr. Serjeant D'O'lyly's name is connected is, we believe, a valuable edition of "Burns' Justice," which he published in 1836, in conjunction with his friend Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams. With but two or three exceptions, Mr. Serjeant D'O'lyly was the last of the English barristers called to the bar before the present century.

## DR. PHILLIMORE.

JOSEPH PHILLIMORE, Esq., D.C.L. and F.R.S., Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University of Oxford, Chancellor of the diocese, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Oxford, and one of the Busby trustees, died at his residence, Ship-lake-house, Reading, on the 24th ult. Dr. Phillimore was Chancellor of the dioceses of Worcester and Bristol, Commissary of the Deaneries of St. Paul's and Westminster, Judge of the Cinque Ports, and Advocate of her Majesty in her office of Admiralty. He was educated at Westminster, became a student of Christ Church, and early acquired great literary and professional distinction. His Latin and English style was famed for its purity and eloquence. In the discharge of his duty as Regius Professor, his speeches on the presentation of Warren Hastings, on the presentation after the peace of the Allied Sovereigns, and on the presentations on the occasion of the Duke of Wellington's installation, caused general admiration. His reputation stood high as a jurist and civilian; and his pamphlet on the nature and extent of the licence trade, written at an early period of his life, was much admired for the felicity of the language and the knowledge which it displayed of history and jurisprudence. In politics Dr. Phillimore belonged to the Grenville party, and sat for many years in Parliament, where he frequently spoke. During the Administration of Lord Liverpool and Mr. Canning he was a Commissioner for the affairs of India, when he refused a Privy-Councillorship, which would have obliged him to abandon his profession. He was afterwards Chief Commissioner of French Claims and Chairman of the Committee for the Registration of Dissenters' Marriages. To his abilities as a Judge Lord Lyndhurst paid the highest tribute in his place in the House of Lords, saying that he had carefully examined the proceedings of the Court at Bristol, and that it was impossible for justice to be better administered than it was in the court where Dr. Phillimore presided. Dr. Phillimore was the son of the Rev. Joseph Phillimore, and brother of Captain Sir John Phillimore, G.B.; of William Phillimore, Esq.; and of the Rev. Robert Phillimore, late Vicar of Shipton-under-Wychwood. He married Elizabeth, niece of first Lord Bagot, and daughter of the Rev. Walter Bagot, of Blithfield, Staffordshire. By this lady, who survives him, he leaves one daughter and six sons.

**WILLS, PERSONALTY, AND BEQUESTS.**—Sir Roger Martin, Bart., left personality estimated at £14,000; Henry Sheppard, Esq., of Clifton, £20,000; T. A. Rayford, Esq., late Registrar in Chancery, £70,000; Rev. J. L. Jackson, M.A., Dorset, £35,000; J. B. Whitworth (wholesale grocer, London), £25,000; James Weston, Esq., Fincham-park, £35,000; Mr. J. Doyle, of Chandos-street, £10,000; Miss Jenima Freeman, of Colchester, £25,000, who has bequeathed £2000 to the Essex and Colchester Hospital; £1500 to the Society for Poor Clergymen and their Widows of Essex; and £100 to the Society for the Relief of Poor Lying-in Women of Colchester.

**SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**—At the ordinary meeting on Jan. 26th, Viscount Mahon, M.P., the president, in the chair, J. Joseph, Esq., banker, of Brecon, South Wales, was admitted a Fellow. The following gentlemen were elected Fellows:—George Roots, Esq., barrister-at-law; R. H. Major, Esq., Secretary of the Hakluyt Society; and Francis Bennoch, Esq.

## METROPOLITAN NEWS.

## RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, FEB. 1.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barom. at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degrees of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
Jan. 26	29.979	35.5	30.2	32.8	— 4.4	92	S.W.	0.00
" 27	29.951	35.4	22.5	28.7	— 8.6	95	Calm.	0.00
" 28	29.921	34.9	20.0	29.8	— 7.5	79	E.	0.00
" 29	29.702	34.4	24.3	29.7	— 7.7	94	N.W. & N.E.	0.30
" 30	29.684	33.0	28.0	30.2	— 7.3	83	N.E.	0.30
" 31	29.481	30.0	26.8	28.3	— 9.3	83	E.	0.00
Feb. 1	29.803	31.2	25.5	28.1	— 9.6	65	N.E.	0.00

NOTE.—The sign — denotes below the average. The numbers in the 7th column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 29.98 inches at the beginning of the week, to 29.91 inches by the afternoon of the 26th; increased to 29.97 inches by the 27th; decreased to 29.64 inches by the 29th; increased to 29.73 inches by the 30th; decreased to 29.40 inches by the 31st; and increased to 29.91 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.771 inches.

The mean temperature of the week was 29.7°, which is 7.3° below the average. The mean daily temperature was below its average on every day of the week. The highest temperature of the week occurred on Friday, and was 35.4°, and the lowest was 20° on Sunday. The general direction of the wind was N.E. The mean temperature of Jan. 26, 27, and 28, in the year 1848, were 25.1°, 26.5°, and 21.0° respectively; of Jan. 29 in 1851 was 29.0°; of Jan. 30 in 1859 was 26.1°; and in 1845 was 30.2°; and of Jan. 31, 1850, was 20.0°; on Feb. 1 in 1850 was 22.0°; and in 1841 was 27.2°. The mean of the seven days ending Feb. 1 in 1816 was 29.2°, and in 1839 was 30.1°. And these are the latest instances of such low temperature as those experienced in the past week.

Snow fell on the 29th, 30th, and 31st. Crystals of snow were abundant on Jan. 29 and 31.

For the month of January the mean reading of the barometer at the level of the sea was 30.188 inches. The highest temperature during the month was 51.8° on the 1st, and the lowest was 13° on the 19th; the range of temperature during the month was therefore 38.8°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 39°, and of all the lowest by night was 30.3°; the mean daily range of temperature during the month was therefore 8.4°. The mean temperature of the air during the month was 34.9°, being 1.3° below the average of thirty-eight years. The mean temperature of evaporation for the month was 33.7°. The mean temperature of the dew point was 31.8°. The mean degree of humidity was 90 (complete saturation being represented by 100); and the fall of rain during the month was nine-tenths of an inch.

Lewisham, February 2, 1855.

JAMES GLAISHER.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—Within the week ending January 27 the births of 830 boys and 822 girls were registered within the metropolitan districts: in all 1652 children. The average number for the fourth week in the year from the preceding 10 years is 1466. The number of deaths registered within the same time was 1630—a number exceeding the calculated number by no less than 418, showing the effects of the rigorous weather of the last two weeks. Seven hundred and eleven of the deaths occurred at ages less than 20 years; 205 at that age and under 40; 289 aged 40 years and under 60; 347 who were 60 years old and under 80; and 77 at ages exceeding 80 years.

**ST. MARYLEBONE BANK FOR SAVINGS.**—The twenty-fifth annual general meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, when the several reports stated that the progress of the bank during the past year had been of a satisfactory description, no less than 2284 new deposits having been made in the last year.

The Committee of the London Fever Hospital are about to place one of the wards of that institution, apart from the fever wards, at the use of the authorities, for invalids returning from the Crimea.

**EXHIBITION OF INVENTIONS.**—As a substitute for, and in the absence of, a permanent museum of inventions, it has been the custom of the Society of Arts, for some years past, to make annually a collection of specimens, models, drawings, and descriptions of articles invented during the preceding twelve months, whether patented, registered, or not. Steps are now being taken to get together the seventh annual collection, which it is proposed to open at the end of April.

**SNOW IN THE STREETS.**—The ill effects of the working of the street-cleaning contracts in the City have been again seen in the late snow-storms. The contractors do not consider snow as street dirt they are bound to remove, and the footpaths they have nothing to do with. It is quite absurd to rely upon the antiquated regulation of housekeepers sweeping the footpaths around their houses. The Mansion-house had only one footpath swept, and the Bank of England none. Indeed, before now, the Lord Mayor has been fined for not having his footpaths swept.

**ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL, GRAY'S-INN-ROAD.**—The annual general court of the governors of this valuable charity was held in the board-room of the institution, Gray's-Inn-road, on Tuesday, for the purpose of receiving the report and upon other business—the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor presided. Mr. Fenn, the secretary, read the report, which stated that for the year 1853 36,214 patients were relieved, a larger number than ever relieved in any preceding year; but in 1854 the number amounted to 41,835, being still an increase over 1853 by 5621. The in-patients also much exceeded those of 1853, but it was regretted that, owing to the want of funds, the number was limited. The total number of patients relieved since the foundation of the charity, in 1828, is 481,602. During the prevalence of cholera 6152 were relieved, the hospital being open night and day. The money and clothes given to destitute patients on leaving the hospital—especially unfortunate females—have been the means of restoring many to their homes and friends. In consequence of so large an amount of relief afforded, the expenditure has exceeded the receipts, which is further accounted for by the urgent demands of the Patriotic Fund and other military charitable collections, as well as the high price of provisions. The report, after stating that the medical staff had been greatly increased, concluded by making a strong appeal to the governors, collectively and individually, as well as to the public generally, by their aid to place the hospital free from debt, and in a position of increased efficiency. The Lord Mayor moved the adoption of the report, which was carried by acclamation. Mr. Wakley moved, and Mr. Halswell seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Marsden, the founder of the hospital. Mr. Marsden, in returning thanks, said that notwithstanding the great difficulties the institution had to contend with at its outset, it being the first free hospital in the kingdom, it had surmounted them all, and now claimed its place with the first hospitals in the land. During the past year the medical staff had been largely increased, and he could fairly state that either for skill or number it could not be surpassed by any other establishment of the kind. He trusted that those present would exert themselves to relieve the hospital from the debts incurred in former years, amounting to nearly £5000, which were a great drawback upon the committee. Owing to the want of funds they had been compelled to close three of their wards, and to take in but a limited number of in-patients; and it was most painful, more especially in this cold and desolate weather, to have to refuse, upon an average, thirty applicants per day of that class which could not help themselves.

**DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—A DIVIDEND.**—The annual general meeting of the proprietors of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane, was held in the saloon of the theatre, on Tuesday, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee, and electing officers for the ensuing year. Benj. Bond Cabell, Esq. (in the absence of the Earl of Glengall), took the chair, supported by a large body of proprietors. The committee, in their report, stated that Mr. Smith, the present lessee, had entered into a lease for seven years, commencing the 1st of January, 1852, at a rent of £4000 per annum; and they considered it due to that gentleman to acknowledge the punctuality with which he had paid his rent since he had held the theatre. It was upon the full conviction that he would continue to fulfil his obligations thus honourably that the committee rested their expectations of having the means to discharge the claims consequent on presenting the public with a nearly new theatre, both internally and externally, at an expense of about £2000. The committee had kept up the quarterly payments to the Duke of Bedford, and the sum of £650 had also been paid to renters' trustees. The income since the last general meeting had been £7076 18s. 10d.; and the expenditure, £7119 14s. 2d. Mr. Arden, in moving the adoption of the report, congratulated the proprietors that it was more favourable than any they had received for the last twenty years. The report was unanimously received.

**THE MURDER IN FOLEY-PLACE.**—On Tuesday morning the inquiry was resumed before Mr. Wakley, at the Middlesex Hospital, touching the death of Mr. Joseph Latham, otherwise Lambert, who was assassinated by an Italian named Luigi Buranelli, on Sunday, the 7th ult. The court was unusually crowded on the occasion. Buranelli was present. His face was bandaged, from the pistol-shot wound, but he did not appear to suffer much pain. He walked with a slow but firm step, and took a seat at the end of the table, opposite the Coroner. After evidence had been heard as to facts with which the public are well acquainted, the Jury proceeded to Foley-place, to take the evidence of Mrs. Lambert. On the Coroner and Jury arriving in Foley-place, Mrs. Lambert was in the front parlour, and, after being seen by the Coroner and her medical attendant, the Jury were admitted. Her evidence did not differ in substance from what had been previously given by other witnesses. The Jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder" against Luigi Buranelli.





H.M.S. "MAGICIENNE" PASSING EARTHOLM ISLAND, IN THE BALTIC.

## H.M. STEAM-FRIGATE "MAGICIENNE."

As the *Magicienne* was the last ship of the British fleet to leave the Baltic, the accompanying illustration will be interesting to show the kind of weather to be met with in that sea about three weeks since. The sketch was taken by an obliging Correspondent on the 14th ult., and shows H.M.S. *Magicienne* passing the little isle of Eartholm, when returning from her last solitary cruise in the Baltic.

This picturesque island lies within sight of the island of Bornholm, and is also under the Danish flag. It is of very small extent, and is valuable chiefly from having a convenient anchorage, and being available as a naval arsenal. The Russians are said to have an eye upon it, for which reason it is strongly fortified.

Several merchant-vessels were lying there, seeking shelter from the severity of the weather, at which time the *Magicienne* was literally covered with ice, caused by the freezing of the spray of the sea during the cruise. On her arrival at Copenhagen on the 15th she had forty of her crew placed *hors de combat* by the cold; the thermometer being seldom above 18 deg. or 14 deg. below freezing. Our men suffered severely from not having the sheepskin clothing necessary for such a low temperature.

The *Magicienne*, 16, Captain Thomas Fisher, arrived in Plymouth Sound on Saturday, from the Baltic—where she had been employed for upwards of nine months. The *Magicienne* had on board three Russian deserters, who left some line-of-battle ships at Sveaborg. One of these is a silversmith, and has given evidence of his skill since joining; one is a blacksmith, and the third is a soldier and sailor: he handles a musket with

celerity and expertness, and is no way deficient when on duty as a seaman. Since leaving England on the 31st of March she has gone 11,795 miles, burnt 2286 tons of coal, and been at sea 184 days. During her absence, the *Magicienne*, besides assisting disabled ships belonging to the Allied fleet, has been instrumental in saving two vessels.

The wounded soldiers who recently arrived in the *Cambria* at Liverpool, and met with such a kind reception in that town, received equal attention from the ribbon-weavers of Nuneaton, when they arrived there on their way to Coventry and Chatham. As soon as it became known in the town of Nuneaton that a number of wounded soldiers were at the station, gentle and simple hastened to give them a greeting, and as it was a cold, raw day, a subscription was started on the spot to procure some port-wine and biscuits for them. This was done at once; and on the next day, when another train arrived with about 100 more of the wounded, a larger supply of wine awaited them. The soldiers seemed much affected by the kindness they met with; and said that, although every attention was paid them by the authorities of Liverpool, yet that the hearty reception and substantial fare that they met with at Nuneaton made them feel the grateful hearts that beat in the English people. About £10 worth of wine was supplied on the two days to the wounded soldiers.

Notice has been given at the Underwriters'-room, Lloyd's, that several vessels, each of 500 tons burden, are required to convey a number of wooden huts to Heligoland, where her Majesty's Government are about to establish a military camp and dépôt to enrol men for the Foreign Legion.

## PORTION OF THE BRITISH ARTILLERY CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

THE illustration below represents a portion of the English Camp during one of these snow-storms which have prevailed so frequently during the last three or four weeks. The view is very dreary, but frost and snow are much easier to deal with than the rain and mud with which our unfortunate army has had to contend. In the French Camp the snow was hailed as an improvement in the outward condition of things. The *Presse d'Orient*, speaking of the French army, says: "Our soldiers support the cold gaily. Some of them build huts in snow, and others, possessed of more elevated tastes, turn sculptors, and make colossal statues near our camp."

The two mules in the foreground would at once serve to indicate the locality of the annexed sketch. No one who knows anything of the two camps would ever suppose that such starved-looking animals were under the charge of our allies. Hardly an English letter comes from the Crimea without some expression of regret at the treatment the cattle have received.

I noticed one horse in particular (says a visitor to the Camp between Kadikoi and Karani). It was the most pitiful sight I ever beheld. Once upon a day he had been a handsome charger, but now he was the veriest caricature of a horse that Edwin Landseer—foisted on the most atrocious nightmare that ever weighed upon Cruikshank—could conceive or delineate. That horse was grand in its decay, for it beggared description. A skeleton covered with an old hide; no mane, no tail; a pair of deep-set, glaring, ghastly, and almost ferocious eyes, and lips shrunk away from the long,



PORTION OF THE BRITISH ARTILLERY CAMP AND SIEGE TRAIN, BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.





SHIPMENT OF WOODEN BARRACKS, ON BOARD "THE WHITE FALCON," AT SOUTHAMPTON, FOR THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

bare, and hungry teeth! You could not tell the colour of the animal; his coat of hair was covered with a thick coat of mud, which was baked on him, and fitted him tight, like a slush-coloured leather jerkin, and there he stood, shivering in the sun, and up to his knees in mire, tied to what had once been a shrub, but was now a bundle of dry, withered, leafless, branchless sticks, rooted to the ground; and these sticks the animal eyed with a hungry glare, and every now and then took a bite of them. Sterne wept fictitious tears over the carcase of an ass that lay by the roadside. He would have wept real tears—as many stronger or better men have done—if his "Sentimental Journey" had brought him to anything like our Cavalry Camp.

#### SHIPPING WOODEN BARRACKS FOR THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for January 6 we detailed the construction of the Wooden Barracks, to the order of the Imperial Government, for the French army in the Crimea. We now illustrate the scene of the shipment of the Barracks in Southampton Docks on board the American ship *White Falcon*, chartered by the French Government. The Houses, or Barracks, which we have already described at some length, were packed in great lengths, clamped

with iron hoop. The *White Falcon* has six shrouds to each mast, and she is altogether considered a very smart craft: there are raised cabins on deck and on the poop. The packages of the huts were ranged along the jetty, and taken in through one of the side ports, as shown in our second illustration—"between-decks" of the *White Falcon*. Here is seated a Dockyard clerk, taking an account of the packages—a French official superintends; while the men are carrying the packages and stowing them away. In the distance are some lanterns. The vessel, we understand, had stowed in her hold 2000 barrels of pork. The day of the above shipment was Saturday, January 20.



BETWEEN-DECKS OF THE AMERICAN VESSEL "WHITE FALCON."—RECEIVING ON BOARD THE WOODEN BARRACKS FOR THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 115.)

## HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

## RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

The Earl of ABERDEEN said that, after the vote of the House of Commons on Monday, her Majesty Ministers at once resolved to place their resignations in the hands of the Queen, and her Majesty had been graciously pleased to accept of the same. They therefore only held office until their successors were appointed. Although her Majesty's Ministers had opposed the motion of Mr. Roebuck as being unconstitutional in itself, it was not their desire to oppose any inquiry into their conduct. He believed that an impartial inquiry would establish those facts; that no indifference to the wants of our army in the Crimea had ever existed in the minds of her Majesty's Government; and that no exertions had been spared to supply the wants and to maintain the efficiency of our troops in the Crimea. He thought that the Duke of Newcastle had met with great injustice. It was impossible for any Minister to exceed the noble Duke in assiduity and attention to the duties and the interests of his office. He (the noble Earl) did not complain of the feeling that generally prevailed in respect to the management of the war. The public saw that the misfortunes which had occurred were beyond the ordinary calamities of war, and they very naturally turned to the Government as an object of censure, as it was to them they looked for the efficiency and protection of our army. The members of the Government submitted to the natural consequences, and resigned their offices. Although the individual suffering of our army in the Crimea was very great and painful, he saw no cause for discouragement or dismay in looking at the position of our army in reference to the war. On the contrary, he saw every reason to indulge the most sanguine hopes of our ultimate success. The noble Earl, in conclusion, expressed a hope that a strong Administration would be formed, that would carry on the war with vigour and effect, and with a view to the only legitimate end of all war—namely, to the arrival of a speedy and honourable peace (Hear, hear).

The Duke of NEWCASTLE entered at considerable length into a defence of his proceedings, and strongly complained of the course pursued towards him by Lord John Russell. He had over and over again offered to resign his position to any of his colleagues, and to give his services in any other capacity than that of Minister of War. It could not, therefore, be his desire to retain his office that led to the withdrawal of the noble Lord, whose expressions of kindness, while endeavouring to remove him from his position, he could only consider as so much of what the Americans designate *soft saunders*. He also said that it was his intention to have given up the office of Minister of War whether the motion of Mr. Roebuck had been successful or otherwise.

The Earl of DERBY, after commenting upon some of the observations of the Duke of Newcastle, stated that he had been sent for by her Majesty, and if he could have seen any hope of success he would have attempted to form an Administration. He thought that in such a crisis every one should sink his personal feelings in order that her Majesty should not be left without a Government; he yet felt that in the state of public parties he could not offer to her Majesty the assurance of being able, satisfactorily, to conduct the affairs of the Government, and consequently he had at that moment no instructions from her Majesty to form a Government.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

In reply to a question from Mr. Stafford, Mr. COWPER said that parcels for Balaclava would be received at the dockyards for any officer at the Crimea, and would be forwarded also to parties either at Balaclava or Scutari.

Mr. HAYTER moved for a new writ for the borough of New Radnor, in the room of Sir T. Frankland Lewis, Bart., deceased.—Agreed to.

## RESIGNATION OF MINISTERS.

Lord PALMERSTON said,—I rise, Sir, in a formal manner to make a communication to this House which will probably be anticipated, and which communication would have been made on Tuesday if it had not been for the accidental circumstance of their Lordships in another place having adjourned, namely, to state that, in consequence of what passed in this House on Monday night, her Majesty's Government thought it their duty to tender to her Majesty the resignation of their offices, that that resignation was most graciously accepted, and that they now only held office until their successors are appointed. Under these circumstances the House will naturally feel that it would be highly inconvenient to proceed with the dispatch of any public business, and I therefore propose that this House at its rising do adjourn until to-morrow (Friday). My reason for not moving the adjournment for a longer period, which might have been very naturally expected, is that I have learned from you, Sir, that the hon. and gallant member for Westminster (General Sir de Lacy Evans, Bart.) has intimated to you that he will take his seat in this House to-morrow evening (loud cheers). I am quite sure that I should be doing violence to the feeling of this House if I proposed by any longer adjournment to deprive honourable members of the earliest opportunity of testifying to that honourable and gallant member their sense of his brilliant and distinguished services (Hear, hear, and cheers). There is also a bill which my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies introduced last night, for the purpose of carrying into effect a treaty with the United States, which it is proposed to submit, and if there should be no disposition, on the second reading of that bill, to enter upon a discussion, it will be very advisable to allow that bill to pass through its second reading to-morrow (Hear).

The Speaker put the question, and it was agreed to.

The Fisheries (North America) Bill, and the Passengers Act Amendment Bill were severally read a second time.

On the question that the House do now adjourn, Lord EBRINGTON said he could not allow the House to adjourn without expressing his regret that nothing had been said in reference to the Government which was to replace that which had just resigned.

**PRESERVATION OF LIFE FROM SHIPWRECK.**—On Thursday a meeting of the general committee of the Royal National Life-boat (late Shipwreck) Institution was held at its offices, John-street, Adelphi; Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. The silver medals of the Institution were voted to John and Wm. Lewis, of Harwich, and £20 between themselves; and the crews of their smacks, *Aurora* and *Foyal*, in testimony of their gallant and persevering exertions in rescuing four men from the brig *Stanton*, of Shields, which was wrecked on the Gunfleet Sand during a heavy gale on the 16th ultimo. The poor men had been forty hours on the foretop, and it was only after repeated attempts they were at last providentially saved from a watery grave by the gallant Lewis and their crews; also £3 more granted to the crew of a steam-tug for the ready assistance it rendered to tow out a paddle-box boat belonging to one of her Majesty's steamers which was unluckily lost while attempting to approach the wreck. Various grants were then made in aid of local life-boats. We were glad to observe that, although the meeting decided to sell again a portion of the funded capital of the institution, to meet the heavy and increasing demands made upon its limited funds, the East India Company, Lloyd's, Trinity House, Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping, Royal Mail Steam-packet Company, and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, had again liberally contributed to the Institution. These donations were much appreciated by the committee as coming from public bodies so peculiarly competent to judge of the merits of the society.

**THE LAW PROFESSORSHIP IN THE GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.**—Professor Allen A. Macdonochie, of the Glasgow University, has intimated his intention to resign the Chair of Civil Law in the University of Glasgow. Only one applicant, Mr. Skene, Sheriff-Substitute for the county of Lanark, has been mentioned. The appointment rests with the Town-council of Glasgow and the heritors of the University, and the probability is that their choice will fall on Mr. Skene.

**A HANDSOME TESTIMONIAL.**—A silver dessert centre-piece was presented to Mr. F. Ball, by the clerks and managers of the different works of Messrs. Naylor, Vickers, and Co., of Sheffield, at a dinner at Bishop's Royal Hotel, on the 24th ult.

**LORD CARDIGAN AND THE UNITED SERVICE CLUB.**—The members of this, the oldest military and naval club, intend to invite the noble Lord to become an honorary member, in consequence of his distinguished gallantry at Balaclava on the 25th of October last.

**THE TELEGRAPH AT ROME.**—The line of electric telegraph connecting Rome with the rest of Europe, by the way of Bologna, is now completed, and nothing interferes to prevent Pio Nono from entering into confidential conversation with either of the Emperors of France, Austria, or Russia, except the erection of the intermediate stations, which are actively proceeding so as to enable the Government and the public to make use of the line at the beginning of next month.

## MANAGEMENT OF THE WAR.

**MEETING IN FINSBURY.**—A public meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Finsbury was held on Wednesday evening, at the Music-hall, Store-street, to consider the conduct of the war. Owing, doubtless, to the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was not large. In the absence of the representatives of the borough, Mr. Duncombe (owing to indisposition) and Alderman Challis, the chair was taken by Mr. Eli, of Islington, who said he looked upon the majority in the House of Commons as an expression of the opinion of the people of this country on the manner in which the war had been conducted. He looked on the vote as a condemnation not only of the conduct of the war, but of the whole policy followed by the Aberdeen Cabinet. The country intended the war to be carried on with energy and vigour, and for that purpose they demanded a reform in the administration of every department. The end they had in view was in plain terms the dismemberment of Russia (Cheers)—not a dismemberment that would increase the dominion of England or the power of France, but the provinces that Russia had wrested from other nations should be restored to them, and the nationalities she had crushed should be re-established. Mr. W. Wilkes proposed the first resolution—

That this meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Finsbury expresses its indignation at the misconduct of the war with Russia, and demands at the hands of Parliament an inquiry as strict and uncompromising as their support of Government has been liberal and confiding. That this meeting also expresses its opinion that there will be no safety for the interests of this nation, or of Europe at large, without the enforcement of Ministerial responsibility, by the abolition of secrecy in diplomacy, and the curtailment of aristocratic influence over the civil and military establishments. That, remembering the repeated declarations of Lord John Russell and other Ministers, to the effect that the war was undertaken in the cause of European freedom, this meeting declares that the conclusion of peace on the basis of the Four Points will prove the war to have been a delusion and a fraud.

Twelve months ago they had met in that place to excite suspicions against the Government; but now they met to mingle their lamentations with their fellow-countrymen over the disasters that had taken place. He did not agree with those who accused Lord Aberdeen of being the sole cause of those disasters; the whole Cabinet were as guilty. He could not separate Palmerston from Aberdeen, or Russell from Clarendon; they had all sat at the same council board, and they should fall together. The country wanted a man who could rise superior to the faults of the system. Dr. Epps seconded the resolution. The aristocracy had, in the course of the present war, shown their total want of administrative ability, though he could not but acknowledge their bravery and pluck on the field of battle. An amendment was proposed in favour of annual Parliaments and manhood suffrage, but only a few hands were held up for it. The original resolution was then carried by an immense majority. Mr. Collett moved the second resolution—

That the foregoing resolution be embodied in a petition to Parliament, signed by the chairman, and that the meeting urgently recommends to the country at large the adoption of a similar petition at parochial and other meetings.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

**MEETING IN NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**—A public meeting, convened by the Mayor, in compliance with a numerous signed requisition of ratepayers, was held in the Lecture-room, Newcastle, on Monday evening. The requisition stated that the ratepayers "are impressed with the conviction that the negotiations for peace now in progress are calculated to produce results disastrous to Turkey and Europe generally, and humiliating to Great Britain." The room was densely crowded; and the Mayor, having taken the chair, briefly opened the proceedings. Mr. Joseph Cowen, jun., read letters from Mr. Headlam, M.P.; Mr. Layard, M.P.; William Digby Seymour, Recorder of Newcastle (all of whom had been invited to the meeting), apologising for their absence. Mr. Layard expressed regret that months ago the country had not been roused to protest against the present ruinous policy, and hoped to have the pleasure at a future period to visit Newcastle. Mr. W. Cook moved—

That this meeting condemns and repudiates the propositions of the Vienna Conference as calculated to patch up a false and shameful peace, ruinous to Turkey, advantageous to Russia, injurious to Europe, and humiliating to Great Britain; and this meeting is of opinion that no peace should be concluded except on conditions which will leave Turkey free and untrammelled by any foreign protectorates—restore Poland to the rank of an independent state; and by such means restrain the dangerous power of Russia, and put an end to the calamitous inroads of Muscovite aggression.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Mr. George Crawshaw next addressed the meeting. He said the great quality now required by this country was presence of mind. Our army was lost in the Crimea, and our honour was lost at Vienna. The object they must aim at, and which he hoped would be accomplished, was the dismissal of the present Ministry (Applause). The country must give a fair and candid trial to the only party which can possibly take their places at the present moment. He must admit that he had read the speech of the Marquis of Granby with great alarm. That nobleman repeated all the trash about the honour of the Czar, hoping that the peace to be concluded would be as honourable to the Czar as to this country. If there was one subject more than another in which the people of this country were agreed, it was distrust of Austria (Applause). He happened to be in the House of Lords at the opening of the Session, when he heard Lord Derby express the same distrust of Austria. The noble Lord said he was not sure that Austria had not been the cause of our want of success in this war (Hear). The speech of Lord Derby on that occasion evidently threw the Government into confusion. The Duke of Argyll replied to the noble Lord. He said: "Such language will not be tolerated in this House: such is the language we are accustomed to hear from the platforms in this country" (Hear). The country must insist, not merely upon an inquiry into the military management of the present Ministry, but also into their diplomacy. Mr. Crawshaw concluded by moving—

That the fatal misdirection of the war, the disgraceful Foreign Enlistment Bill, the nefarious alliance with Austria, the diplomatic conspiracy to effect a shameful peace, the infamous mismanagement, which has resulted in the destruction of the greater portion of the British army in the Crimea, and now threatens the sacrifice of the remainder of that noble band of heroes, so worthy their country's gratitude and admiration—these facts considered, this meeting is of opinion, that further tolerance of the present Administration would be fatal to the country and a crime on the part of the British people; therefore this meeting determines to petition the Queen to dismiss, and the Parliament to impeach, the incompetent and unworthy Ministers who have brought shame and sorrow upon this country.

The Mayor now left the chair, and it was taken by Mr. Cowen, jun. Mr. Thomas seconded the resolution, which was carried. Mr. Charles Atwood rose and moved an address to the Queen, founded on the foregoing resolutions, which was seconded by Mr. Crawshaw, and carried by show of hands.

**GLASGOW.**—A crowded meeting was held in the City-hall, Glasgow, on Friday (yesterday) week, to consider the conduct of the war in its present relation to the liberties of the Continent, and especially the necessity for the establishment of an independent Poland, as the only satisfactory guarantee for the future peace and freedom of Europe. Resolutions condemnatory of the way in which the war has been mismanaged, and in favour of more energetic measures, were passed unanimously. An attempt to divide the meeting by an amendment in favour of peace, on the basis of the Vienna Note, was unable to find a single person to second it.

**THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL AND THE NAVVIES.**—It is to be lamented that more regularity and system do not exist in the actions and movements of each department. I do not wish to enter on that ground of censure which has proved the subject of so much correspondence lately; moreover, the very attempt to do so would involve me in a labyrinth of critical examination. I might mention, *en passant*, one single case which occurred within the last week, and one which amply exemplifies my remark. It is well known that the navies are coming to the Crimea for the purpose of laying a tramway from Balaclava to Sebastopol. With this knowledge, it was proposed by certain persons of one of the departments that huts might be erected for the accommodation of the navies on their arrival; and certainly this proposition betokened the desire to assist the movements of the new-comers. Well, a requisition was made to General Airey, the Quartermaster-General of the English army, for the necessary permission and assistance; but, strange to say, a refusal was received from the above-mentioned quarter, with the remark that "it was none of his business, and the navies might take care of themselves." Now, certainly, this is not pulling together with that zeal and energy necessary to the proper furtherance of the plans of the campaign. It is easily seen that if only half-a-dozen huts had been erected, thus evincing a disposition to assist in a most necessary work—if this had been done, it would confirm the belief of the navies that every aid will be rendered them in the Crimea. But in this they will be most egregiously disappointed, for I much fear that they will be obliged to do everything for themselves—a very difficult thing for those inexperienced in a Crimean campaign.—*Letter from Balaclava, Jan. 12.*

**IRISH GALLANTRY.**—Three days ago our regiment was in the trenches: we had one man knocked to pieces and two more wounded by grape. The same day a very feeling circumstance took place. Two Russian soldiers were coming down a street: says one of our men, "By the powers, but they have a woman to protect them." "Bad luck to me," says another, "if she goes at one side I'll have at them." They would not chance a shot for fear of hitting the woman. But she was not four paces from the Russians when whizz go the Minié rifles and down tumbled one of them; the other started off at a good run. "Faith," said one of my comrades, "if we shot the woman the Russians would let Old Nick know it, and he would stick it in the papers that we were shooting the women; and other countries would say, 'Sinope again.'" Now, my dear wife, although we are at bloody work, this little incident will let you see that, while we have no reluctance in shooting or bayoneting a Russian, we have some respect for their women.—*Letter from an Irish Soldier.*

## TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &amp;c.

The living links that unite us to the poets of the first half of the present century are fast disappearing from among us. This week has added another to the many that have gone. Dorothy Wordsworth, the only sister of William Wordsworth, died at Rydal Mount, in Westmorland, on the 25th of January, in her eighty-fourth year. She was born on Christmas-day, 1771, and from girlhood (though not from childhood) was the constant and chosen associate of her illustrious brother. Wordsworth was as fond of his sister as Charles Lamb was of his sister, and we know how touchingly Elia has exhibited his fondness for Mary Lamb. Mary Lamb lived single, so did Dorothy Wordsworth. Both had poetic tastes and sensibilities, both were fond of poetry, and both suggested subjects to their respective brothers which have had a beneficial effect upon our literature. The contrast between the temper of Wordsworth and his sister is represented by the poet himself:—

My sister Emmeline and I  
Together chased the butterfly.  
A very hunter did I rush  
Upon the prey \* \* \*  
But she, God love her! feared to brush  
The dust from off its wings.

He loved her in earnest truth, and has rejoiced in verse that

The blessing of his later years  
Was with him when a boy;

while he has characterised the nature of her influence upon him in four remarkable lines:—

She gave me eyes, she gave me ears,  
And humble cares, and delicate fears,  
A heart, the fountain of sweet tears,  
And love, and thought, and joy.

She delighted in Chaucer and in Spenser; caught, on many occasions, the raptured ear and eye of Coleridge with the point and spirit of her poetic criticisms, and was found by Southey to be the cheerful, well-informed companion of many a country walk and winter fireside. In 1836 she became, as Wordsworth himself has told us, "a confirmed invalid;" yet such was the natural strength of her constitution that she survived for eighteen years. Her fine memory she retained, we believe, to the last.

Though Dorothy Wordsworth was not gifted like her brother with what her brother calls "the accomplishment of verse," yet she had all the genius and faculty divine of a true poet, looking on nature with a poet's eye. How exquisitely earnest and truthful is her description of daffodils, as seen in spring. "We saw a few daffodils close to the water-side. As we went along there were more and yet more; and at last, under the boughs of the trees, we saw there was a long belt of them along the shore. I never saw daffodils so beautiful. They grew among the mossy stones about them. Some rested their heads on these stones as on a pillow; the rest tossed, and reeled, and danced, and seemed as if they verily laughed with the wind, they looked so gay and glancing." What the sister saw and told in prose, Wordsworth saw through his sister's eyes and has told in verse:—

I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine  
And twinkle on the milky-way,  
They stretched in never-ending line  
Along the margin of a bay;  
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,  
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they  
Outdid the sparkling waves in glee:  
A poet could not but be gay  
In such a jocund company.  
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought  
What wealth the show to me had brought.

Fer oft, when on my couch I lie  
In vacant or in pensive mood,  
They flash upon that inward eye  
Which is the bliss of solitude;  
And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

Of this poem Wordsworth himself has told us that the two best lines in it are by his sister. These lines we have printed in italics. Surely there is now a chance of our seeing Miss Wordsworth's Diary entire. If she reported conversations as she described the face of nature, her Diary must be a treat. One of her sayings is well known, "When a child I could not have pulled a strawberry blossom." There is the sense of womanhood in this.

Since this was written we observe that the *only* sister of another poet has just been removed from among us, at an age only one year younger than Miss Wordsworth. On the 29th of last month died, at Brighton, Miss Sarah Rogers, the only sister of the poet of "The Pleasures of Memory," who happily still survives among us. Miss Rogers had all her brother's taste for art and literature. Her house in Hanover-terrace was elegantly filled with choice examples of art from Giotto to Stothard, bought as much by her own good sense as by her brother's example and assistance. Some of her best pictures she is understood to have left to the National Gallery.

Mrs. Milner Gibson is honourably known to all literary men in London of any distinction. She loves their company, and is, by her conversational powers, fit to associate with the most intellectual and refined. What author is there, then, who does not wish her well, who will not rejoice in any accession of fortune to one who uses what she has with equal sense and liberality? One of the choicest properties in Suffolk—Hardwicke House, near Bury St. Edmunds—has just descended somewhat unexpectedly to her. It was her father's, and she was an only child, and yet there was a chance—nay, more than a chance—of the property passing away from her to the second wife of her father. Few believed otherwise. But old Sir Thomas Cullum, whatever he may have hinted he would do, has done what he ought to have done, and that choice Elizabethan mansion, so sweetly situated on a rising knoll among woods, is now the property of Mrs. Milner Gibson, with the attendant advantages—so it is said—of twelve thousand a year. We remember Hardwicke: it is the only house in England—and we have travelled critically the length and breadth of nearly every county, from Land's End to Berwick-upon-Tweed—into which we failed in obtaining admission. We had neglected carrying with us a letter of introduction to Sir Thomas; and one fine day in summer drove from Bury to Hardwicke, to take our chance of seeing an early Italian picture of which we had heard high praises. We rang, and a tall butler replied, Sir Thomas was not at home, and the house was shut up. We told our object in a way which on every other occasion has never failed in procuring admittance when the family were not at home. We offered money, gold and silver together, but no—not the single picture we sought to see would the French butler or valet allow us to see. We spoke of our journey on purpose; mentioned several friends of Sir Thomas to whom we were known; but no! We were obliged to drive away, muttering our wayward fancies on the road about some imaginary relationship between the obdurate French butler and the murderer Courvoisier.

It is our intention whenever any great dearth of literary or artistic news occurs—as is the case at present—to print such unpublished materials of moment connected with English authors or English artists as our own collections, aided by the assistance of many friends, will enable us to supply. With this view we print a curious memorandum from Sir James



Thornhill, the painter, which will be found to embody some new materials for his "Life":—

COPY OF MEMORANDUM OF SIR JAMES THORNHILL TO W. CLAYTON, ESQ., & CO. Some Reasons why yr. Petitioner Sir James Thornhill should not stand on the same footing with all the rest of his late Majesty's Creditors.

Impr.—Because his Ancestors, both of Father and Mother's side, have been sufferers in the cause of that Liberty; the fruits of which are now so happily enjoyed by many the subjects of England.

His Grandfather Coll: Thornhill suffer'd in the Parliaments service in yr. West, during the late Civil War's.

His Grandfather on the Mother's side, Coll: Wm. Sydenham, One of the Lds Commissioners for the Publick Treasury of England, one of his Highnesses Council of State, and Govr. of the Isle of Wight, &c.; had purchased Christbrook Castle and several woods &c. belonging for £700, which on the Restoration were taken from him, but his Person pardon'd; as never intending to hurt yr. Person of the King but to oppose the Tyranny in his Administration.

His Grandfather's Brother Coll: Sydenham, Govr. of Weymouth was there slain in yr. services of the Parliament and country.

Another Brother Majr Sydenham also kild before Sterling Castle in the same cause.

2ndly, Your Petitioner has serv'd faithfully for the Town of Weymouth where he was born, for several years, without any least expence to yr. Crown, and has spent a great deal of Time and Money also, during all that while; in serving the interest of yr. Crown, by many hundreds of good Votes both in the City of London and Westminster.

He may very truly insist on it, that the small debt of £1100 which he now pays, will no ways balance his lost time and expences aforesaid.

3dly, As he succeeded Sigr Verrio as History Painter to his late Majesty, by Warrant under his Grace yr. Duke of Newcastle, and a fresh Warrant to serve his present Majesty by the Queen's particular Order; entitled to the same advantages as his Predecessors had, well was £200 pr. an: being yr. same as yr. Kings Fan Painter enjoys &c.

Yet instead of ever receiving one shilling; Has been as it were disgrac'd, and supplanted in his Royal Masters favour and Business too, by the overbearing power of the late Vice Chamberlain Coke, and the present Earle of Burlington by obtaining Signs Manual privately to the great detriment of your Petitioner, not only in the Kings business, but in all other business both publick and private.

4thly, Towards yr. latter part of yr. Late Good Kings reign yr. Petitioner finding yr. Debt increasing faster than discharg'd, was advis'd by his Friends to endeavour to get in the Debt, which was then £1500, by surrendering his Patent, for fear of accident by Demise; which he accordingly endeavoured to do: But the good nature, and he dares say the intended Friendship of Sr Rob: Walpole would not permit, promising he should be made easy &c. & that he would take care: However the thing which he fear'd has fallen upon him; and unless he is paid in such a manner as he presumes may be easily found out, He will remain a sufferer instead of receiving such benefit as in some degree he might claim in common with his other fellow subjects under a Prince to whose August Family he has long since erected not a mean Obelisk, and to whose Administration no Englishman wishes better.

Many more, and strong Reasons might be urged for yr. Petitr: but hopes these are sufficient.

What was the success of the memorandum we cannot tell. George II. was not so fond of Weymouth as George III., and he cared little and knew less about Art and Artists.

Autograph collectors should make a point of attending a coming sale, at Sotheby and Wilkinson's, of choice English autographs, and of books that have belonged to eminent men. As the original MS. of "Kenilworth" will be sold on the last day, the possessor of the unpublished tale of Sir Walter Scott will have a fine opportunity of verifying his MS. by an undoubted example. Collectors will be there in every way well fitted to assist and determine his inquiries.

ORIGIN OF POTATO OATS.—We have to record the death of Mr. Daniel Jackson, of Greenhill, Arkleby, Cumberland, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Upwards of half a century since this gentleman, who was a considerable landed proprietor in the county, purchased some potatoes for seed which were supposed to come from abroad; when they came up, amongst them were found a few heads of corn resembling the oats then grown in this country, but of larger growth, and differing in appearance, showing a great superiority over the common oats. These seed was carefully preserved again every year: soon a sufficient quantity was produced to offer it for sale to the neighbouring farmers: from the circumstance of having been originally found growing amongst these foreign potatoes, it was called "potato oats."

A WONDERFUL ASSYRIAN OBELISK.—A dealer in curiosities, named Dropsy, of the Quai Malaquais, was on Saturday tried, by default, by the Tribunal of Correctional Police at Paris for an impudent fraud. Knowing that an elderly *avant*, named Barrois, had a great passion for antiquities, and had even written a book on the subject, he proposed to him to purchase an Assyrian obelisk, in a fine state of preservation, which he said had been sent to Paris by an English company, who had discovered it in some excavations at Babylon. M. Barrois eagerly grasped at the proposition, and finding on investigation that the obelisk was covered with cruciform characters, and bore appearance of antiquity, he paid down 5000fr. for it. But some time after, to his great mortification, he found that it was a perfectly modern production. Having made inquiries, he ascertained that it had been made, by order of Dropsy, by a sculptor named Lebeuf, out of the stone from the quarries of St. Leu; that Dropsy had given this person 2000fr. for the work; and that Lebeuf, in order to make it as perfect as possible, had gone to the Museum to examine Assyrian antiquities; and had even consulted M. Barrois's own book! The Tribunal sentenced Dropsy to fifteen months' imprisonment, 500fr. fine, to repay M. Barrois his 5000fr., and besides to pay him 1000fr. as damages.

EXPENSE OF THE METROPOLITAN PARKS.—A return published, on the motion of Mr. Locke, M.P., gives the details of the expenditure of the sums voted for the maintenance of the several metropolitan parks and gardens. The gross total expenditure for the keeping up of St. James's, the Green, and Hyde Parks for the year ending the 31st March, 1854, amounted to £13,711; the expenditure for the maintenance of Kensington Gardens to £2111; that for the maintenance of the Regent's Park to £6551; that for the maintenance of the Victoria Park (Bethnal-green and South Hackney) to £2042; and that for the keeping up of Greenwich Park to £1110. These sums are exclusive of the expense of the rangers' departments. Among the items of expenditure of the three parks first mentioned may be mentioned, £254 for the watering of the three parks; £1259 for the repair of roads, including the tools and materials; £604 for keeping in order the enclosure in St. James's Park, the enclosure in Hyde Park, at the back of Hamilton-place, the gardens of St. James's Palace, and other public gardens; £1327 for the salaries of gatekeepers and constables, £107 for liveries, £54 for the food of the aquatic birds, £1192 for lighting, £650 for the supply of water to the Serpentine, the canal in St. James's Park, &c., and £1087 in aid of the parochial assessments, &c. There is also a special charge of £876 for draining Rotten-row and the footpath on the south of the enclosure in St. James's Park. The receipts of these parks, arising from grazing-rents, subscriptions for keys, and sale of timber, amounted to £549. In Kensington Gardens, among other items, £23 was expended on the nourishment of the water-fowl, £781 for keeping the walks in order and clearing the Serpentine and the Basin of weeds, and £219 on facing and paving the banks of the Serpentine. The receipts from the gardens were £57. As regards the expenditure for the Regent and the Victoria Parks, there appears no item particularly worthy of notice. The receipts from these two parks amounted respectively to £972 and £672. The receipts from Greenwich Park amounted to £74.

CARDINAL WISEMAN IN DANGER.—Cardinal Wiseman arrived in Paris on Wednesday week on his way from Rome to London. In his voyage from Civita Vecchia to Marseilles the Cardinal and the whole of his fellow-passengers had a very narrow—indeed, an almost miraculous—escape from being lost. When off the Island of Hyères, the passengers were startled about two in the morning by a fearful crash, of such violence that it appeared as if the ship was at once going to pieces. It was evident that either the ship had run aground or that a collision had taken place. The passengers, who were all in bed, immediately rushed upon deck, when it was discovered that the vessel had come into collision with a large sailing-vessel, with which she was still in contact, the anchor of the vessel having got fixed in the bows of the steamer. A short period of painful suspense ensued. The starboard bow of the steamer had been stove in, the whole of the bulwarks and the paddle-box were destroyed, and for a moment it was thought that the vessel was sinking. On trying the pumps, however, it was found that the leakage was not so great that it could not be kept down. The other ship had also suffered, but not so much as the steamer. After getting rid of the wreck, the engineers set about repairing the damage done to the engines, and in four hours were able to set one to work, which brought the vessel into Marseilles in the course of the day. Fortunately, the weather was very fine, or a great loss of life might have been the consequence, for the vessel was in a very crippled state, and the boats would not have contained one-fourth of the passengers. The accident was owing to the carelessness of the Italian officer of the watch, who had neglected to place a watch at the bow of the steamer.

MONEY ORDERS.—The remitter of a money-order will not be required, in future, to state his occupation, nor the payee to furnish any information on that point. Advices are henceforth to be stamped with the dated stamp of the paying-office, instead of being signed as at present.

## CHESS.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. TERTON.—Next week, if possible.  
A. F. Florence.—The additional MSS. will undoubtedly prove of great interest. We shall look for them impatiently.  
A. CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER, Saffron Walden.—Yes, unless at the moment of touching the Piece he said, "J'adoube," or words to that effect.  
R. V. M. Laneshire.—We hope to be enabled shortly to give a list of the Matches already arranged to be contested at the Leamington Meeting for the Committee's Prizes.  
CANTAB.—No, no. Altogether wrong.  
CANTAB.—The Solution you sent was destroyed, so we cannot say where the error lay.  
A. Z. H. Y.—The amended version is more promising. Let us see another attempt.  
EVEYER.—You appear to be right respecting the Solution of No. 570.  
W. C. C.—It shall have attention.  
E. H.—The key move to Enigma No. 910 is—1. Kt to K 4th.  
E. B. C. Holoken.—The volume required can be sent, if you will mention the channel through which you wish it to be transmitted.  
P. T. M.—You will find one of Jacques' "In Statu Quo" Chess-boards and Men exceedingly useful when composing Problems. By an ingenious contrivance, the merely touching a spring enables you to fix the men firmly in any position, and by pressing another you release them again instantly.  
DE B., Brussels.—A private communication shall be forwarded.  
DE B., Paris.—We await impatiently the publication of your programme. Until that appears, no effective steps can be taken by the amateurs of this country in furtherance of the undertaking.  
VON H. D. L., Brussels.—A line in reply to the proposal of exchange will oblige us very much.  
JOSSELY.—1. Certainly not. 2. You must not, at any time, Castle when you are in check.  
H. C. Llandaff.—1. It shall be examined. 2. The "Chess Player's Handbook" (second edition), published by Berlin, Covent-garden.  
E. M. H.—Thanks. This lack of production is not, however, by any means, to be compared with some of the earlier contributions.  
G. B. FRASER.—The MS. shall be returned immediately.  
C. L., Calabar, North Carolina.—It shall have a place among our Chess Enigmas.  
T. S., Cincinnati.—The President, we presume, will be Mr. Calthrop. You must send us full particulars, with the name of the secretary and a list of the proposed members.  
A. K., Lambeth.—They exhibit unmistakable marks of improvement—Nos. 1 and 2 especially.  
J. Stonehouse; W. C. C.—We shall endeavour to find room for them ere long.  
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 570, by R. T. W., Perseus, W. G., E. M., W. P., L. J. S., Indley, T. J. of Hanworth, are correct.  
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 571, by F. H., Norswich; Brutus, Strickland; T. J. of Hanworth; Derevon, E. H., W. C. C.; J. Stonehouse; W. G., Delta, J. M. of Sherburn; J. P. C., Dublin; J. P. of Guernsey, are correct. All others are wrong.  
SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS by P. H., Norswich; Derevon, Somerset; Philip, Argus, Meropie, I. T., M.P., Villiers, Czar, P. P., Duo, Panjab, T. W. S., E. H., W. C. C., Peter, are correct. All others are wrong.

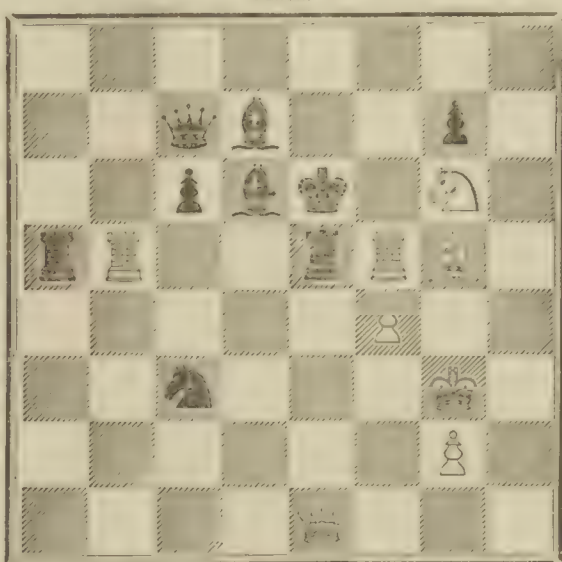
## SOLUTION OF PROBLEM, No. 571

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. B to K sq	K to B 4th	4. B to K R 2nd	K to K 4th
2. B to K B 2nd	K to K 4th (best)	5. P to K Kt 4th	
3. B to K Kt sq	K to B 4th		Discovering check and mate.

## PROBLEM No. 572.

By Herr PITTSCHER.

## BLACK.



## WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

## CHESS IN SCOTLAND.

In a recent Number we gave a smart Game between Mr. G. B. Fraser and another Amateur, illustrative of a somewhat uncommon variation in the 1. Gambit. The following *partie* played by the same opponents may help to throw some additional light upon the debut in question.

WHITE (Mr. G. B. F.)	BLACK (Mr. G.)	WHITE (Mr. G. B. F.)	BLACK (Mr. G.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	14. K Kt to K R 3rd	Q to K R 5th
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	15. B takes B	Q takes B
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	16. K to R sq	P to K Kt 4th (d)
4. P to Q Kt 4th	K B takes Kt P	17. P to K B 4th	P takes P (e)
5. P to Q B 3rd	K B to Q B 4th	18. Kt takes P	Q to K Kt 5th
6. P to Q 4th	P takes P	19. Kt to K 6th (ch)	K to K 2nd
7. Castles	P to Q 3rd	20. R to K B 4th	Q to K R 4th
8. P takes P	K B to Q Kt 3rd	21. R to K B 5th	Q to K Kt 5th
9. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	Q B to K Kt 5th	22. R takes Kt	P takes R
10. Q to Q R 4th (a)	K to B sq (b)	23. Q to Q R 3rd (ch)	K to B 3rd
11. K Kt to Kt 5th (c)	Q B to K R 4th	24. R to K B sq (ch)	K to Kt 3rd
12. P to Q 5th	Q Kt to K 4th	25. Q to Q 7th.	
13. K B to K 2nd	P to K R 3rd		and Black surrenders.

(a) In effect, it is this, and not the previous move of Kt to Q B 3rd, which constitutes the novelty in Mr. Fraser's variation; and this certainly appears to us to present valid claims to consideration. If, in reply, Black play 10. B takes Kt; or 10. Q to Q 2nd; or 10. B to Q 2nd, Mr. Fraser has furnished us with a host of variations to prove that White speedily gets the advantage. His best answer appears to be that in the text.

(b) The merit of suggesting the present move has been claimed by two or three players, we find; but, in reality, it is no new discovery, for K to B sq. in analogous situations, was proposed years ago in the *Chess-Player's Chronicle*—in the first instance, if we mistake not, by Mr. Von Heydebrand; and it has been recently adopted in games between Messrs. Brien and Wayne, and Brien and Green.

(c) In a note to this move, Mr. Fraser remarks that subsequent examination has convinced him P to Q 5th is a far more effective mode of continuing the attack than playing K Kt to K Kt 5th. We append a few of the variations with which he has favoured us, in support of his

In the first place:—			
11. P to Q 5th	Kt to K 4th	15. P to K B 3rd	Q B to K R 4th
12. Kt takes Kt	P takes Kt	16. Q R to Q sq	K to Kt 2nd
13. Q B to Q R 3rd (ch)	P to K 2nd	17. P to Q 6th	
14. K to R sq	P to K Kt 4th		

(We must take the liberty of saying that the two or three last moves given to Black appear to us very far from the best.)

11. P to Q 5th	Q B takes Kt	13. P takes Q Kt	P takes Q Kt
12. P takes Kt	Q B to K Kt 5th		

And White has a capital game.

And White has a capital game.			
In the third place:—			
11. P to Q 5th	Kt to Q 5th	13. B to Q Kt 2nd	Kt to K B 3rd
12. Kt takes Kt	K B takes Kt		

(We are not at all satisfied with the move Mr. Fraser proposes for Black here. It strikes us that by playing his Q to K Kt 4th he would obtain at least as good a game as his opponent has.)

14. K B to K Kt 3rd	B takes Kt	15. B takes B, with a fine game.
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(d) Q Kt to K Kt 5th seems preferable on many accounts.

(e) At this point, also, we should have preferred playing the Q Kt to Kt 5th. Taking the Pawn serves only to release the White Kt from a very bad position.

## CHESS IN PARIS.

Asprightly little affair between M. DEVINCK and M. DE RIVIERE			
WHITE (M. De R.)	BLACK (M. D.)	WHITE (M. De R.)	BLACK (M. D.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	13. Q to K 2nd	K R to K sq
2. K B to Q B 4th	P to K B 3rd (a)	14. Q B to K 3rd	P to Q B 3rd
3. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	K Kt to K B 3rd	15. K B to Q R 4th	K R to K 2nd
(b)		16. K R to B 5th	P to Q Kt 4th
4. K Kt to K B 3rd	P to K 4th	17. K B to Q Kt 3rd	Q to Q B 2nd
5. P takes P	P takes Kt	18. Kt to Q 5th	Kt takes Kt
6. K Kt to K 5th	P takes P	19. B takes Kt	B takes P (ch)
7. B to Q Kt 5th (ch)	Q B to Q 2nd	20. K to R sq	K R to K sq
8. Kt takes B	Q Kt takes Kt	21. Q R to K B sq	Kt to K B 3rd
9. P to Q 4th	P to K R 3rd	22. R takes Kt	P takes R
10. Castles	B to Q 3rd	23. R takes P	K to Kt 2nd
11. P to K B 3rd	Castles	24. Q to K R 5th (c)	Q to K R sq
12. P takes P	P takes P	25. Q B takes K R P (ch)	

## And Black resigns.

(a) This defence is seldom adopted in our days, although it has been thought deserving of considerable attention by Corio, Ponziani, Philidor, and later writers. The main defect in it is that it affords the opening player too much facility in bringing his pieces into the field.

(b) Philidor commends P to Q 4th at this point; but modern authorities seem to agree in preferring Q to K 2nd. (See the "Chess-players' Handbook," p. 231.)

(c) Truly. If Black take the Rook he is mated in two moves.

On Thursday evening week the Emperor gave a ball at the Tuilleries, the last which will take place for some time, owing to the Court mourning about to be ordered for the Sardinian Royal family.

## MUSIC.

THE PURCELL CLUB held their anniversary meeting on Tuesday, at the Albion Tavern. This society was founded in 1836, by Mr. Edward Taylor, the Gresham Professor of Music, with the object of doing honour to the memory of the most illustrious of English composers. It is a body of eminent professional musicians and amateurs, who devote themselves especially to the cultivation of vocal music, and who testify their veneration for their great countryman by the study and performance of his works. It is the custom of the club to hold two meetings in the year: the one in winter is of a convivial nature; and the other is in summer, when the members of the club join the choir of Westminster Abbey in performing the cathedral services of the day, which of course are selected from the works of Purcell. Professor Taylor, the founder of the club, is its perpetual president; and to his admirable fulfilment of the duties of his office the great and increasing prosperity of the society is to be mainly ascribed. There was a full attendance of members; the chair being occupied by the distinguished president. The meeting, as usual, was social and cheerful; and the musical portion of the evening's entertainment was even more than usually delightful. The first part of it consisted of sacred compositions, including two of the most beautiful and most celebrated of Purcell's anthems; the one, "Blessed are they that fear the Lord," was composed on the occasion of a public thanksgiving ordered for the supposed pregnancy of the Queen of James the Second; the other, "O give thanks," may probably, from the grandeur of its proportions and the sublimity of its harmonies, be regarded as Purcell's masterpiece in ecclesiastical composition. There was next a selection from the music in "Rondana," consisting of the grand chorus, "Hear us, great Rugeith," the recitative, "Hear, ye gods of Britain," the duct, "To arms," and the celebrated chorus, "Britons strike home." These pieces, whose warlike character was appropriate to the time, were performed with great fire, and received with enthusiasm. Several miscellaneous songs, duets, and canons, concluded a most interesting evening.

THE HARMONIC UNION have begun their season rather inauspiciously. Their first concert on Wednesday evening suffered from the excessive severity of the weather—intense cold and a snow-storm—in consequence of which there was a very thin attendance. An unexpected occurrence contributed to mar the performance. A handbill was distributed in the room, in which the directors stated "that but a few hours since they received intelligence from several important and leading members of the orchestra that Mr. Gye, of the Royal Italian Opera, late last night, refused permission to them to attend the performances of the Harmonic Union this evening, although those gentlemen had unconditionally accepted the engagement offered them by the directors, and had attended the rehearsal on Monday last." It was added, that "this most unprecedented and arbitrary proceeding has compelled the directors to engage other gentlemen, who have kindly consented to play at a moment's notice, although without the advantage of a rehearsal." We presume that, by the terms of the engagements of the Royal Italian Opera band, Mr. Gye had the power to prevent them from performing on this occasion; though it seems strange that he should have exercised this power at a time when their performing elsewhere could not have in the least interfered with the arrangements of his theatre, which is not yet opened.

The Harmonic Union have removed their concerts from Exeter-hall to the Hanover-square Rooms; and they have engaged M. Molique, instead of Mr. Benedict, as their conductor. The performance of Wednesday consisted of "The Creation," and was less effective than it probably would have been under other circumstances. The orchestra was very imperfect; and the defects of this important branch of the performance were necessarily injurious to the whole. The solo parts, however, were very well sung by Miss Stalbach, Mr. Locket, and Mr. Weiss.

MR. HENRY RUSSELL has been giving his entertainment and several new songs with deserved success in the provinces. He visits Newcastle-on-Tyne next week, and thence proceeds to Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the north of Scotland.

THE forty Chanteurs Montagna, who have been singing with such success at M. Jullien's Concerts at the Royal Italian Opera, will shortly start upon a provincial tour.

## THE THEATRES.

SADLER'S WELLS.—"The Winter's Tale" was revived on Saturday; the part of *Hermione* being performed by Miss Atkinson, an improving actress. The statue scene, as usual, was well managed. Mr. Phelps, as *Leontes*, has in it a situation of pathos, to which he gave full effect. But the combined recognition of wife and daughter, evidently copied from *Pericles*, is inferior both in power and art to that single picture of paternal emotion which makes the triumph of the older drama. The actor's skill and passion show, perhaps, more distinctly in that; but the *Leontes* also bears proof of careful study, and is executed with those "fine touches" which bespeak the consummate artist.

MARYLEBONE.—Mr. and Mrs. Wallack reappeared, for the first time since Christmas, on Monday, in the delightful play of "As You Like It." The piece was placed on the boards with that taste in costume and scenery which marked its revival last year. For next Monday a five-act play by Mr. Bayle Bernard is underlined, under the title of "Leon, or the Iron Mask."

HAYMARKET.—Miss Cushman reappeared as *Romeo* on Monday, and acted with her usual power. *Juliet* was performed by a *débütante* (Miss Swanborough)—pretty, but feeble and immature, yet not without promise, in less important roles. The appearance of Miss Cushman in the character is always an event on which to congratulate the playgoer. An actress in such a part has an advantage not possessed by its male representative. She may exaggerate the passion without rendering it absurd; whereas masculine violence with the love-sick *Romeo*, however little exhibited, always appears overcharged. This is particularly the case with the scene after the banishment in the cell of the friar; with most actors it is their least efficient situation; it is the best and finest with Miss Cushman. The house was well attended, and applause frequent.

OMNIBUS FARES.—At the commencement of the war, when food was plentiful and prices on the rise, the omnibus proprietors of London unanimously raised their fares from 3d. to 4d., alleging as a reason that horse provender was much more expensive than it had been. Experience, however, brings conviction, and although an attempt was made during the recent falls of snow to get the fares up to 6d., it was in a very short time abandoned as a losing speculation, and the 4d. fares were again adopted. But within the last few days, with frost and snow still on the ground, the Hoxton and Old Kent-road omnibuses have recommenced running at the old 3d. fares to or from the Bank to Islington and the Old Kent-road; the deduction having been made in consequence of the proprietors on that line having come to the conclusion that 4d. was too much to charge for so short a distance. The new Peckham omnibuses have followed the example, and the Greenwich omnibuses, it is expected, will shortly do the same.

A MONUMENTAL CAIRN OPENED.—In the course of some improvements being now made on the property of Guisachan, lately purchased by Mr. Majorbanks, one of the large monumental cairns sometimes found in the Highlands was opened by the superintendent of the works, Mr. Stewart. These cairns are generally found to contain a circular chamber, which is formed by large stones overlapping each other, so as to form a rough dome of uncemented masonry. In this chamber there has generally been found an urn of the coarsest workmanship standing upon a bed of prepared clay, and containing calcined remains of the dead. In the present instance no mention is made of the circular chamber, or the passage leading to it—usually facing the east—from which we may infer that the dome had fallen in. The workmen came, however, upon the ashes of the dead, which were contained, not in an urn, but in a stone coffin, measuring four feet in length, two in breadth, and about twenty inches in depth. The lid of the coffin projected about two inches all round. A quantity of moist earth and dust, supposed to be the ashes of some one whose remains had been burned, were found within. This is the second cairn of the sort which has lately been opened at Strathglass.

USE AND WONT.—The following singular ancient usage was observed on Monday in the Dublin Court of Exchequer.—Three of the choir boys and one of the clergymen of Christ's Church attended before their Lordships to comply with the terms on which certain lands are held by the Dean and Chapter of Christ's Church Cathedral, namely, that on specified days they shall render homage to her Majesty, in her Court of Exchequer. A hymn having been sung, and certain prayers recited, the ceremony terminated.

RUSSIAN LOSS IN 1854.—A letter from Warsaw, quoted by the *Cologne Gazette*, says that the loss sustained by the Russian active army (that is the "Grand Army," under Prince Paskievitch) during the year 1854 has amounted to 111,132 men; of which 29,204 were killed, 55,304 wounded, 6240 deserters and absent, while 16,156 have died of divers diseases.





BRUNSWICK, SUABIAN, AND SAXON PIGEONS, FROM THE PHILOPISTERON SOCIETY'S SHOW, IN FREEMASONS' HALL.

#### THE PHILOPISTERON SOCIETY'S SHOW.

ALTHOUGH London cannot apparently maintain an annual poultry exhibition, yet she can boast of her Society of Pigeon Fanciers; for finer specimens are rarely seen than were at the Grand Show of Old Birds of the above Society, in the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday week. Almost every variety of the domestic pigeon was represented. The Pouters of Mr. Bult, the Toys of Mr. Wicking (the President), the Carriers of Messrs. Parkinson and Haynes, the Short-faced Tumblers of Messrs. Pyne, Wicking, and Esquilant, attracted and deserved universal admiration. The Foreign Pigeons were collected in a pen by themselves, and comprised varieties of form and colour, some of them being perhaps more curious than beautiful. The Hall was crowded with visitors, some from distant parts of the country, who seemed generally of opinion that this, the eighth annual show, was better than the last; "he birds being more numerous and the quality finer, proving the time of the gentlemen amateurs composing this Society has not been lost.

#### MALE AND FEMALE CHAMOIS, AND ST. BERNARD DOGS, BELONGING TO MR. ALBERT SMITH.

IF the movement in aid of the British army now making in Piedmont should cross over to the other side of the Alps, Mr. Albert Smith has only to put himself at the head of his regiment of "Guides," and start off at once from Chamouni to the East; for he knows the way, and they will follow him wherever he chooses to lead them—no less from personal attachment to him than from gratitude for what he has done for them. Not only has he sent so many travellers from London to Mont Blanc, but he has brought Mont Blanc to London; and, not content with that, appears to be gradually collecting around him every animal, vegetable, or mineral peculiarity pertaining to his favourite region that can be imported.

Mr. Albert Smith has favoured us with the following particulars of the

interesting Alpine group presented to our readers. The chamois, male and female, were taken last spring, in the vicinity of the Col du Bonhomme, near the pass where the two English tourists, the Rev. Mr. Braken and Mr. Campbell, lost their lives in a snow-storm, in September, 1830. They are still young, the horns just budding, and were brought up by a goat, who accompanied them to London, under the care of Jean Tairraz—Mr. Smith's chief guide in the ascent of 1851. The male, "Chap," is the finer of the two; but one of his legs was unfortunately broken at the time of his capture, and, from want of proper attention, a false joint has resulted, so that he walks lame, and it is feared will not entirely recover, although quite free from pain. The female, "Linda," is a very gentle little thing. She lives a little way out of town, in the care of one of Mr. Albert Smith's assistants, Mr. Morley; and sometimes creates a little interest, as she trots, with a little bell hung to her collar, along the somewhat to her strange route of Piccadilly, on her way to the Egyptian Hall, where she, now and then, makes acquaintance with the juvenile visitors.

There are chances against the rearing of these little strangers. Mr. Mitchell, the able secretary to the Zoological Society, courteously furnished Mr. Smith with a few particulars respecting their race in England. He remembered to have seen four, belonging to the late Lord Derby, on their passage through London. They lived at Knowsley for several years, and had a considerable range there in the paddocks, where the large antelopes and the Wapiti deer were kept. The chamois were able to pass through the dividing fences, and were only confined by the outside boundary. They were fed with hay and corn, as well as grass, and, in fact, were treated just as common goats.

Mr. Mitchell doubts whether there is a good chance of keeping them alive in this country without a considerable range, and for that reason has properly hesitated to import any for the Society. At the same time he states that there is an instance of one that has lived a considerable time in the Jardin des Plantes, in a somewhat unpromising enclosure.

The greater part of the chamois, chased on the Alps, inhabit the mountains of the Vallée de Sixt, on the glaciers of Mont Buet, contiguous to Chamouni. As many as 150 have been seen together in a herd. Mr. Bagge, the member for East Norfolk, is an indefatigable chamois-hunter, and his name is as good as a passport all about Sixt, Samoens, and Chamouni. The "professional" hunters are but indifferent marksmen, according to Mr. Prior (who lived fifteen years amongst them), and carry heavy antiquated carbines, which miss or hang fire half the time. This he considers very fortunate, as otherwise the race would soon become extinct, as is the Bouquetin, or very nearly. A stuffed specimen of the latter may be seen in the museum attached to the little inn at Servoz, where the *chairs-à-banc* stop to bait on the road from Salanches to Chamouni.

The St. Bernard dogs are male and female. "Lion" is not pure breed; there is a cross of the English mastiff about him; but he is much the finer animal of the two, and very affectionate and gentle, enjoying a romp amazingly. "Diane" is *pur sang*. She was sent to Mr. Albert Smith as a New-year's gift, by the monks, last year (but could not start in January, for the weather), as an acknowledgment of an increased accession of visitors to the Convent, which they were disposed to think he had induced to go there. The following certificate accompanied her:—

Hospice du Grand St. Bernard, le 5 Février, 1854.

Je soussigné déclare que la chienne Diane, conduite par le nommé Pierre François Farret, de Chamonix, est véritablement de la race des chiens de St. Bernard, et qu'elle est conduite à Londres pour M. Albert Smith.

En foi, MEILLAND, Clavendier.

When Mr. Albert Smith was at the Convent, in October last, M. de

l'Eglise, the Prior, expressed to him great anxiety as to the keeping up of the world-renowned breed. The mortality amongst the dogs had been very great. There were then only two at the Convent: one was a fine light-coloured fellow, very rudely good-tempered; and the other a female, the sister to Mr. Smith's Diane, and bearing the same name. The dogs are named, either in allusion to the classical localities of the pass—as Jupiter, Mars, Castor, &c.; or to Napoleon's memorable passage in 1800—as Drapeau, Marengo, and the like. Fortunately there has been no fatal accident on the mountain since 1851, when the body of a young man was found at the Vacherie, a quarter of a mile below the Convent. The improving state of the roads, and the establishment of canteens, have increased the safety of the route. It is not improbable that, in a few years, there will be a carriage-way completely across the pass. Mr. Charles Taylor, of Hollycomb, brought a very fine dog direct from the Convent, in 1850, which he gave to Mr. Richard Arabin. In the event of a breed from this dog and Diane, Mr. Smith has promised some puppies to the Monks, a somewhat strange return.

Those of our readers who have been to Chamouni, will recollect the trim obliging Bernese girl, who served in the shop for carved wood-work and bâtons, kept by the brothers Kehrli and Auguste Balmat. She accompanied the chamois to London, and is learning English against her return to the Alps. She belongs to the Kehrli family, from which a great proportion of the beautiful carved Swiss wood-work emanates—there are some specimens of their labours in the Crystal Palace—and lives, in the winter and spring, at Meyringen, in the Oberland, with her relations.



BERNESE GIRL.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY KILBURN.

The Bernoise, the female chamois, and "Lion," had the honour of being presented to her Majesty, at Windsor Castle, last month. The dog and the chamois had never met before this great event in their lives; and some doubts were entertained as to whether the meeting might not terminate in a somewhat novel variety of coursing over the park; but they instantly became very great friends, and are now never comfortable away from one another. Lion ordinarily carries a *grelot*, or "rattle" of bells round his neck, and as soon as Linda hears these, she makes wonderful leaps on to any projecting ledge that presents itself, and can with difficulty be kept quiet.



MALE AND FEMALE CHAMOIS, AND ST. BERNARD DOGS, BELONGING TO MR. ALBERT SMITH.





"THE EXECUTION OF MONTROSE, AT EDINBURGH, 1650."—PAINTED BY E. M. WARD, A.R.A., FOR THE COMMONS' CORRIDOR, WESTMINSTER PALACE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

#### EDUCATION IN THE MINING DISTRICTS.

A MUNIFICENT provision for the educational and religious requirements of the numerous persons employed in, and dependent upon, the extensive ironworks of Messrs. John Bagnall and Sons, in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury, has just been made by that firm in the erection of a commodious group of buildings, to be employed both as school-rooms and chapel. For a considerable time a clergyman has been engaged to visit the work people at their own homes, and to conduct Divine service on Sundays; but the room hitherto employed for the latter purpose, though spacious, has not afforded adequate accommodation for the congregation. A school-master has also been engaged for the past twelve months, under whose care a flourishing night-school has been formed, numbering about 240 scholars, varying from eight to twenty-two years of age, the entire expense having been borne by Messrs. Bagnall. Anxious to establish a day-school on a scale commensurate with the necessities of the district, the present commodious edifice has been erected by those gentlemen, at a cost

of £5500. The schools, when thrown open for Divine service, form one large room, 129 feet long, with a depth of 53 feet in centre and 23 feet in the transepts, and 30 feet in height to the point of the roof, which is open. The centre (or, as it may be termed, transept) is divided from the two wings by lofty arches, and is carried backward considerably beyond the line of the building, and the space thus acquired is occupied by a gallery for the Infant School, a small class-room or vestry being placed immediately behind. The Girls' School-room is to the north and the Boys' to the south of the Infants' portion; and large crimson curtains drawn across the arches completely seclude each department from the other. The centre space (or Infant School), where the clergyman will officiate, has been fitted up with a communion-table and rails, a pulpit, and reading-desk, and is ornamented by a large five-light window, filled with stained glass. The building has been adapted for its twofold purpose by the architect with great skill; the officiating minister can see, and be seen by, the entire audience; the desks in the Girls' and Boys' Schools are ranged in three rows, one above the other, and, as the leaves are moveable, are no obstacle on the Sunday. About

half of the floor for the whole length of the building is left entirely vacant that space being necessary for the children to be grouped together, and for evolutions. This vacant space, however, is filled with comfortable benches on the Sunday. In school hours 500 children can be accommodated (150 boys, as many girls, and 200 infants), and about 700 worshippers on the Sunday. The building is heated throughout by hot water, and lighted by gas. The style is Gothic, the material is red brick, with stone dressings and copings. At each end of and communicating with the school-room, is a house—one for the master and the other for the mistress. In the rear are large playgrounds. The night schools and lavatory are in progress, and the out-offices.

The building has been erected from the designs of Mr. Daukes, of Whitehall-place, London, by Mr. Wood, of Worcester. It is situated within a few hundred yards of Messrs. Bagnall's central office, at the Gold's-hill Works. The day-school will not be in operation for a few weeks.

The Gold's-hill Schools, being licensed for Divine Service, were opened on Sunday morning, the 7th ult. At the conclusion of the services, the Bisho



MINING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND CHAPEL NEAR WEDNESBURY.







## NEW BOOKS, &amp;c.

**VICINITY of MALVERN.—A CLERGY-**  
MAN, in a salubrious place of residence within a short ride of  
his favourite resort, and quickly accessible from Oxford, Cheltenham,  
and Birmingham. RECEIVES into his house all the best YOUNG  
GENTLEMEN, on whose EDUCATION, in sound principles of Scholarship  
and Religion, he bestows much personal care. There is also a  
constant attendance, and the domestic supervision is not  
neglected. The keeper of the house, Mr. [name] is learned, and  
the terms are inclusive of a moderate sum. Good references  
of high respectability, including many late Pupils. Address, CLERGYMAN D.,  
care of Dawson and Son, Abchurch-yard, London.

The valuable advantage derived from this invention is, that vision being impaired is preserved and strengthened, and very aged persons are enabled to employ their sight at the most minute occupation—can see with those lenses of a much less magnifying power—and they do not require the frequent changes to the dangerous effects of further powerful assistance.

## NEW BOOKS, &amp;c.

The necessary instructions forwarded postage-free, on receipt of two stamps.—Barnard, Manufacturer and Importer, 339, Oxford-street (opposite John-street, London).

## WATER-COLOURS.

from the lowest possible prices up to the most costly manufactured. The Glass Department is replete with every article of elegance that Europe can produce, together with a large assortment of the more useful and cheaper Goods required for the table or for ornament.—49 and 50, Oxford-street; and Portland Bazaar, Langham-place.





BURNING OF THE THEATRE OF LA MONNAIE, AT BRUSSELS.

## BURNING OF THE BRUSSELS THEATRE.

On Sunday week the splendid theatre of La Monnaie—one of the great attractions of the city of Brussels—in less than two hours was reduced to ashes. The fire is said to have been caused by an escape of gas which took place near a stove. The flames broke out with great intensity; and some men who were employed over the stage among the scenery, preparing for the representation of the "Prophète," which was to take place the same evening (Sunday), had barely time to descend from their perilous position, and make their escape. It is supposed from the statement of these men that the flames burst out in the room appropriated to the *figurantes*, and in which a stove was lighted. The alarm being given, the firemen hastened to the theatre from the Hôtel de Ville and other parts of the city. It was then about nine in the morning; and, although the flames had not been perceived more than half an hour before, it was at

once seen that all efforts to extinguish the fire would be fruitless. Just as they arrived, an immense mass of red, green, and yellow flames burst from several parts of the roof, and rose in the air to a height of upwards of a hundred feet. The fire soon after found its way through the principal entrance, and the spectacle then was a terribly grand one. In a few minutes the flames rushed out from all the windows above, and the roof seemed on the point of falling in. The firemen meanwhile had penetrated inside, and by great exertions had contrived to save some articles of furniture and some dresses from the performers' rooms. The money-box and the books of the establishment were also saved; but the scenery, costumes, and all the properties of the theatre were completely destroyed. At one moment it was feared that the fire would spread to the surrounding houses, to prevent which the fire-engines were kept constantly at play. So imminent, indeed, was the danger considered, that the principal articles of furniture in these houses were removed to

a place of safety. An immense crowd was collected in the front of the theatre, but the best order prevailed, the ground being occupied by detachments of carbiniers and grenadiers. The civil and military authorities were also on the spot, but without being able to afford the slightest assistance. The fire continued burning most fiercely until nearly eleven o'clock, when it began to subside. The grand entrance, owing to a strong arch built over it, will be preserved. Of the rest of the building the walls alone remained standing. The main part of the building was erected in 1819; but the handsome front was only finished last year, on the plans of Mr. Simories, so that this noble edifice, which was worthy of being an ornament to any city, has been destroyed just at the moment when it had been entirely completed.

The accompanying Engraving of the catastrophe is from a sketch by an artist of Brussels.



ACCIDENT TO H.M.S. "PERSEVERANCE," IN WOOLWICH DOCKYARD.—(SEE PAGE 110)





KHAN OR INN IN SMYRNA, FROM A DRAWING BY JAMES ROBERTSON.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)







there were many other courses which might have been adopted without inconvenience or injury to the interests of the country. He hoped these unhappy discussions would be confined to the overthrow of the Government, and that this House would follow the example of the country, which was unanimous in its determination to carry on the war with vigour. Having settled what Government they would support, he hoped the House would not discredit Parliamentary Government in the face of Europe by continuing these discussions, and showing that a Constitutional Government was not so able to carry on war as Governments framed on other principles.

After some remarks from Mr. Muntz and Mr. Horsman, Mr. DUNCOMBE asked whether Mr. Roebuck meant to carry out his Committee if it were granted?

Mr. ROEBUCK said he did, and in a few words he replied to the objections which had been urged against his motion.

The House then divided.—For the Committee, 305; against it, 148: Majority against Ministers, 157.

The amount of the majority seemed to take all parties by surprise, and instead of the usual cheering there was a murmur of amazement, ending in general laughter.

The other orders of the day were postponed, and the House adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

##### NEW MEMBER.

Captain Pakenham took the oath and his seat as member for the county Antrim.

##### ARMY PROMOTION.

Major REED gave notice, that on Tuesday, the 13th of February, he would move for a Committee to inquire into the system of promotion by purchase in the Army, with the view of substituting a more effective system of promotion by merit and long service.

##### THE MINISTERIAL INTERREGNUM.

Lord PALMERSTON, who rose amidst loud cries of "Hear, hear," said: Sir, I am anxious to propose to the House that, in the present state of public affairs, to which I need not more particularly advert, and considering that the House of Lords has adjourned to Thursday, and that no statement can be made in that House by the head of the Government till that day, this House, at its rising, shall adjourn to Thursday next. I therefore hope that those gentlemen who have notices on the paper will have the kindness to postpone them till that day, and that they will not propose anything that may lead to discussion. My right hon friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies has a bill to introduce for carrying into effect a reciprocity treaty between her Majesty and the United States, which, as it is of great and pressing importance to the Colonies, it is desirable that no time should be lost in introducing it.

The motion for the adjournment of the House, at its rising, till Thursday, was then agreed to.

(Continued on page 106.)

**DURATION OF ENGLISH MINISTRIES.**—The following account of the names and the duration of the various Administrations which have governed England since the passing of the Reform Act of 1832 may at this moment be interesting to all parties. The Ministry of the late Earl Grey held office from November, 1830, to August, 1834, and was instrumental in carrying the bill for the reform of the representative system. On the resignation of Earl Grey, in August, 1834, the Whig Ministry was modified, and Viscount Melbourne was raised to the office of First Lord of the Treasury. This Ministry was dissolved by William IV. in November, 1834, when Sir Robert Peel was summoned by the King from Rome to form a new Government on moderate Conservative principles. Sir Robert's tenure of office, however, was brief, for in the following April (1835) the right honourable Baronet was defeated on the famous "Appropriation Clause" of the Irish Tithe Bill, and Lord Melbourne once more resumed the reins of Government. This, the second, Melbourne Ministry endured from April, 1835, to August, 1841, or upwards of six years, exclusive of the week's interregnum in 1839, when Lord Melbourne temporarily resigned, and was reinstated on the refusal of Sir R. Peel to take office under certain circumstances which need not now be reverted to. In the summer of 1841 the Whigs were defeated in two Parliaments elected under their own auspices, and Sir R. Peel formed that Administration which carried the principle of Free-trade, and was eventually upset in 1846 by the secession of its "Protectionist" supporters. Lord John Russell's Administration, which succeeded, lasted from June, 1846, to February, 1852, when a defeat on the Militia Bill induced his Lordship to resign office. Then came the brief Administration of the Earl of Derby and the "Country party," which lasted about nine months. It was dissolved just before Christmas, 1852, and the Earl of Aberdeen succeeded as the head of a Coalition Ministry. This Administration has lasted a little more than two years. It will be seen that the second Ministry of Viscount Melbourne held office for upwards of six years, that of Sir Robert Peel (the second Ministry) nearly five years, and that of Lord John Russell nearly six years. During the period in question—viz., from 1834 to 1854—three appeals were made by existing Ministries to the public opinion of the nation, by the usual constitutional course of a general election. Thus, Sir Robert Peel dissolved Parliament in Dec., 1834, and the result was a considerable, but not adequate, accession of Parliamentary support; Lord Melbourne dissolved in 1841, but the country returned a majority of 100 against him; and the Earl of Derby's appeal to the people, in 1852, was, to judge from the result, similarly, though not equally, unsuccessful.

**CONVICTISM IN AUSTRALIA.**—The new bill of Sir Charles Hotham, regulating the admission of convicts with conditional pardon into Australia, has excited popular opposition. Sir Charles's plan is to establish agents or commissioners at Launceston, Hobart Town, Perth, Adelaide, and Sydney, who are to inquire into the characters of persons, and give passports. Any persons bearing a certificate of good character, signed by magistrates, or others named in the Act, are to be entitled to a passport. Such as land without passports are to be arrested. The colonists wish to carry out the former Convict Prevention Act, to which the home Government refused the Royal assent. Public meetings have been held to express opposition to the new bill. In Van Diemen's Land the people have petitioned for the discontinuance of all "conditional" pardons.

**PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN 1854.**—An account of the net income and expenditure of the country for the year ended the 5th of January, 1855, &c., was issued on Saturday. It hence appears that the gross total income amounted to £56,737,132, and the expenditure to £59,946,192; thus exhibiting an excess of expenditure over income amounting to £3,209,060.

**WASTE AND WANT.**—Yesterday being favourable weather, I went through the town or rather village of Balaklava, to a distance of two or three miles inland. My impressions were what must, I think, be the impressions of any person who uses his faculties, that there is a great want of management here. Of course there are extenuating circumstances; but when one lands on a hundred bags of bran, placed on the water's edge, and in the water, to form a jetty, when within a hundred yards there are horses starving, and around one are the carcasses of horses that have died for want of food, one must come to the conclusion that there is want of thought, humanity, and zeal for the public good. Again, within a few yards of the shore are strewn fifty or sixty bed valises, belonging to officers, that would be invaluable in the Camp; but have lain there for three weeks exposed to the rain and snow, and to the mercies of the passers by. As to the clothing of the troops, one cannot reproach a soldier, who has been roughing it for months, on account of his dirty appearance. It was unfeeling and unjust to do so. But it is impossible to avoid comparing the ragged, dirty appearance of our soldiers, and the ill-make and fit of their grey coats, with the neatness and smart get-up of the French soldiers who come into Balaklava to carry up shot and shell into the Camp; their blue cloth great-coats fit them like the coats of London footmen, and they all have warm hoods attached to them. Their sheepskin gaiters and comfortable fezes, large enough to be pulled down over the ears, excite the envy of our soldiers, who know that those for whom they are fighting would be greatly mortified if they knew how inferior in things comfortable they are to their gallant allies. We are slow in everything. Now that the snow lies thick upon the ground, a few wooden huts are beginning to make their appearance; and this very day, through some mismanagement, a small steamer containing these huts has run on the rocks at the entrance of the harbour. However, she is not damaged, and may be got off to-morrow. The force of taking levels for the railway is proceeding, though it is to be hoped that Sebastopol will be taken before that is finished. I heard it said to-day that almost every man would join the forlorn hope rather than remain to run the risk of dying of disease.—*Letter from Balaklava, Jan. 12.*

**THE WAGON SERVICE.**—When, about a year or a year and a half ago, Austria, in order to keep Montenegro in order, thought of sending a corps of 20,000 men into the Herzegovina and Turkish Albania, 17,000 packhorses were placed at the disposal of the commander of the expedition. Would it not be possible for England to send an equal number of beasts of burden to the Crimea by the spring, so that, when the time for operations in the open field comes, the army may not be obliged to remain inactive for want of the means of conveying their baggage and supplies?

**A NEW ALLY.**—The *Freemden Blatt* has learned from Varna that the vast quantity of snow which has fallen at Sebastopol is of advantage to the besiegers, who have shovelled it up into a kind of wall, which so completely conceals their operations that the Russians are obliged to remain continually. Thanks to this new ally, the English and French have also been able to push forward their trenches.

#### OPINIONS OF THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. II.)

MONDAY's division decided not only that the House of Commons had no confidence in the Government, but the debate showed also that the members of the Ministry had no confidence in themselves, or in each other. Each Minister who spoke confessed the incapacity and pleaded the inexperience of himself and his colleagues. They had all done their best, which they all allowed had been very bad; but then "they had never tried their hands before at the conduct of a war;" and they seemed to think they ought to be excused for sacrificing the army and perilling the honour of England because they were merely amateurs in the business they had undertaken. If they felt their incompetency, they should have come to the country at once, and requested to be released from their engagements, instead of going on drawing their salaries for services they were incapable of rendering. They have been found unequal to the task of conveying stores a distance of six miles; and, with all the resources of the country liberally placed at their disposal, they could not perform a task that Pickford and Co. or Chaplin and Horne would have readily accomplished. They have cared little about their inability to carry the stores and provisions from Balaklava to the Camp, so long as they were enabled to carry their measures in the House of Commons. The plea of inexperience comes with a bad grace from those who, in the absence of original genius, have had no other guide but precedent, and who have literally broken down in the ruts of routine out of which they have not dared to attempt to travel.

The House of Commons could not do otherwise than show its want of confidence in the Ministry, for any other result would have caused the country to have no confidence in the House of Commons. People are asking, "What are we to get by it?" and some blame the majority for passing an honest vote; but, surely, when we find that our servants are bringing us to ruin, we are not to continue them in our employ merely because we may have some trouble in finding others to take their places. We had better have a change of Ministry once a month than permit our public servants to feel that, however incompetent they may be, we shall allow them to keep their places. The "man" is always to be found for the situation; but the situation must be relieved from the presence of the unworthy holder of it before it can be available for the fitting occupant. The official sewers must be flushed; and there can be no objection to begin by adopting the suggestion of Mr. R. Osborne—himself a member of the Government—who proposed that the Serpentine should be turned on to the Horse Guards, for the purpose of clearing its system of its confessed impurities. At all events, if there is nothing to be gained, there is certainly nothing to be lost, by getting rid of the Ministry. If it leads to nothing but the shuffling of the cards, let us hope that the trumps may be brought into immediate contact with the Queen, and that the knaves may be thrown out altogether. The great "I am" seems to be the card on which the country is disposed to rely, and he is, undoubtedly, enough of himself to make a strong hand when the game is to be played with boldness. Whoever may take the lead will do well to avoid trying to win by tricks, and to take all the care he can of his honours.

The Ministerial crisis will, probably, give the deathblow to much that is of more importance than the Ministry itself, and all idea of useful legislation will be put off under one or more of the variety of pretexts that are always available to a new Government. It matters little how necessary or desirable a measure may be, if Ministers have either just come in or are just going out there is always an excuse for legislation being neglected. It sometimes happens that the more a thing is wanted by the country, the less likely is it to be obtained, for it is either in the position of everybody's business, and is accordingly neglected as "nobody's business;" or it is taken up so generally as to share the fate of the broth that too many cooks have been employed in spoiling.

One of the admitted evils of which the country constantly complains is the state of the law which renders it necessary for a grand jury to find a bill, a petty jury to try, and a judge to pass sentence, in the case of stealing a turnip. The whole of the massive machinery of justice has to be set in motion to deal with an offence against property worth sometimes less than twopenny, and the stealing of which may be admitted before the magistrate, who must, nevertheless, send the offender before a grand jury, who will hand him over to the petty jury, who will leave him to the mercy of the judge, who will, in passing sentence, say less of the loss of the prosecutor than of the expense to the country.

Such a state of things would seem to be too palpably unsatisfactory to remain long without a remedy; but as the affair is now in the hands of Lord Brougham, who has "laid a bill on the table;" of Lord Palmerston, who has "got a bill at the Home-office;" of the Lord Chancellor, who has "heard of a bill having been prepared;" and of Lord Campbell, who has "long had a bill in his eye," the chances are that, between these numerous bills, the subject may be allowed to drop altogether.

Talking of the administration of justice leads one to reflect on the unseemly collision that took place the other day between the Coroner and the police authorities over the Italian who stands charged with the crime of murder. An alleged assassin would not appear to be a very desirable acquisition; but had he been a most precious and valuable prize he could not have been more stoutly contended for than he was by the police-inspector on the one hand, and the Coroner on the other. It is time that the vexed question of the right of the Coroner to withdraw persons charged with homicide from the custody of the police should be set at rest, for when the foreman of a Coroner's jury is found pulling an inspector from the box of a cab, and a Coroner is heard appealing to the bystanders, "in the Queen's name," to aid and assist a beadle in opposition to the regular police force, the scene is too scandalous to render a repetition of it desirable. The alleged assassin was surprised, as well he might be, at the eagerness displayed by the rival authorities to have the privilege of conducting him to gaol; and it is just possible that while the foreman of the jury was collaring the police inspector, and the beadle was "engaged" with the constable, the accused might have escaped from the hands of both parties.

**SUPPLY OF COAL ON THE EUXINE.**—A Parliamentary paper published on Saturday supplies some useful information relative to the nature and quantity of coal derivable from the mines near Heraclea on the Euxine. These mines are situated thirty miles eastward of Heraclea (Eregli), and within half a mile of the sea. The coal crops out from the sides of the mountains, forming the deep narrow ravine in which the mines are situated. The Admiralty, in April last, instituted inquiries respecting those mines, so important for supplying coal to her Majesty's ships in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. The result of the local investigations being satisfactory, both as regards the quality and quantity of the coal, an agreement was made with the Turkish authorities for the transfer of these mines to our own Government. It was estimated that the mines of Kosloo would yield 30,000 tons per annum, and Rear-Admiral Boxer, writing to Sir J. Graham, on the 29th of November last, saw no difficulty (if a sufficient supply of workmen were sent out) in the mines being regularly worked throughout the year, and producing about 3000 tons per month. He also expressed an opinion that if the war were protracted it would be necessary to work the new mines of Zangledik. This hint was acted on by a Treasury minute of the 5th of December, in accordance with which the directors of the works would lose no time in placing the Zangledik mines in efficient working order, and it is estimated that 30,000 tons of coal will be extracted from the district conceded during the six summer months commencing from the 1st April, 1855.

**DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT BRITISH REMAINS.**—A day or two since, as some men were digging in a field belonging to Lord Poultet, at South Chard, Somersetshire, in the occupation of Mr. William Deane, when they had got about three feet and a half below the surface, one of them came in contact with an earthen urn or vase, the top part of which was found to be made of clay, and to contain a number of beads of amber, varying from the size of a pea to about an inch and a half in diameter, many of which fell to pieces on being touched. The beads are supposed to have been a necklace of the ancient Britons, and were possibly deposited where they were found at least 2000 years ago. The parts preserved are now in the possession of Mr. Arthur Hull, of Chard, a well-known collector of curiosities.

#### ARRIVAL OF THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE.

On Tuesday his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge disembarked at Dover, from the *Princess Alice* steam-packet, which had been dispatched to Calais expressly to convey the noble and gallant Duke to those shores. A guard of honour of the Staffordshire Militia, under the command of Major Inge, was in attendance. On the arrival of the *Princess Alice* at the place of landing, Captain Herrick, Colonel Streatfield, Colonel Cator, Major Inge, the Mayor, and some of the members of the Corporation, proceeded on board, and shortly afterwards his Royal Highness appeared upon the deck. The interchange of civilities between his Royal Highness and the gentlemen assembled was the signal for a shout from the multitude who had now congregated; and, amid vociferous cheers, the booming of a Royal salute from the Drop Reoubout, and the strains of military music, the gallant and loyal Duke set foot again upon the soil of England.

A post-carriage had been provided to convey his Royal Highness to Birmingham's Ship Hotel, but it was not brought into requisition, and his Royal Highness proceeded on foot towards that establishment, accompanied by the Mayor and the other authorities, and followed by a large crowd of persons, who continued cheering till his Royal Highness had arrived at the steps of the hotel.

The Duke of Cambridge was accompanied by the following members of his staff:—the Hon. Colonel Macdonald and Colonel Tyrwhitt; and Dr. Gibson (his Royal Highness's physician) and suite were also in attendance upon his Royal Highness. The Duke having been ushered into one of the state apartments of the Ship Hotel, the Mayor and Corporation, accompanied by some of the leading residents of the town, proceeded thither for the purpose of offering his Royal Highness an address congratulatory of his return to England. They were very courteously received by the gallant Duke; and the Town Clerk (T. B. Bass, Esq.) then proceeded to read the following address:—

May it please your Royal Highness.—We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Dover, hasten to testify our unfeigned gratification at the safe return of your Royal Highness to your native country, after the arduous and dangerous service in which your Royal Highness has so much distinguished yourself in the Crimea. Deeply regretting the cause which has for a time deprived her Majesty of your Royal Highness's presence in the field, we earnestly pray that it may please Almighty God that you may soon be restored to health, so that our beloved Queen and country may again enjoy the advantage of the valuable services of your Royal Highness, and that our soldiers may be stimulated by your brave and glorious example.

The address was followed by loud cheering; at the conclusion of which his Royal Highness replied to the following effect:—

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I thank you for the gratification you have rendered me in presenting me with the present address. I assure you that any inconvenience or discomfort which I have experienced in the Crimea has been amply repaid by the bravery of the troops. All a general can do is to lead; and my humble services have been given cheerfully; but it has not been a war of generalship—the campaign has been a soldiers' and nothing but a soldiers' campaign. Led on as they have been by their indomitable courage, these troops have performed prodigies of valour; and I can assure you a finer set of fellows do not exist in the world than the men who are fighting the battles of Britain in the Crimea, and who have done everything in their power to sustain the honour of their country. Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, I again thank you (loud cheers).

The deputation then withdrew. After partaking of a cold collation, his Royal Highness left for London by the two p.m. train of the South-Eastern Railway. His Royal Highness was accompanied to the railway station by the officials who received him on landing. Mr. Way, the superintendent of the station, received his Royal Highness and stay with every possible attention, and the train left Dover amid loud cheers.

**A THOROUGH BLOCKADE.**—No apprehension need be entertained of Russian ships getting out, or, if out, of their getting into port again until spring. According to recent letters from divers places in Russia, the thermometer was down as low as 21 degrees Reaumur under zero (17 under 0, or 47 below freezing-point Fahrenheit). The Russian fleet is therefore fast bound, and will be fast found if the Allied squadrons return to the Baltic at the end of March.

**THE EXPENSE OF CONVICTS.**—A Parliamentary blue-book has just been published, from which it appears that the cost of convicts in 1853-4 was £7254, and in 1854-5, £3859. The high price of provisions was one cause of the increase.

**"THEY MANAGE THESE THINGS BETTER IN FRANCE."**—In the French army one soldier cooks for twelve, instead of each man, as with us, preparing his own dinner by rotation. Amongst other advantages arising from this arrangement, a few large *marmites* serve for a whole regiment, instead of every man being cumbered with his particular pots and pans. But, above all, by its means a more palatable and wholesome dinner for the troops is secured. So it might be with us; for instance, nothing can be better than our ration-pork when it has been well soaked for two or three hours before being dressed, nor anything more salt, and hence more likely to aggravate the diseases in camp, than the same pork when cooked without the initiatory process in question. It is, of course, impossible for each of our soldiers, amidst the various calls on him, to spare every day the time necessary for soaking this pork, but one man in twelve might, I suppose, very easily do so.—*A Month in the Camp.*

**A PRECIOUS RELIC.**—Sergeant-Major I., of the Algerine Rifles, having advanced far in front, found himself surrounded by Russians. To attack them and put them to flight was but the work of a moment. Having thus relieved himself from troublesome company, he was about to advance when the bugle sounded the recall: these well-known notes somewhat calmed him, and as he was looking along the dead and dying, his eye was caught by a large medal which lay shining upon the breast of a dead man; he drew near, and, on examination, found the wearer to be an officer, clad in a private's great-coat. At first he had some compunction as to taking the treasure from the neck, but seeing an inscription upon it his curiosity was excited, he seized the treasure, and returned to his camp, there to examine it at leisure. The medal was an octagon of thick chased silver, worth intrinsically about forty francs. On one side was an inscription in Russian, of which the following is a translation:—"A mother's blessing upon Stephen Doliva Dobrovolski, 1847, 14th October." On the other side, in a frame, was a picture of the Virgin Mary holding an infant Jesus, painted upon glass; under the plate of glass was a satin rose-coloured bag, containing a letter with an engraving glued on to the corner of it, upon which were inscribed the following words, "The highest nobility is to serve the Lord." As the letter was written in an angular style and highly perfumed, it was deemed the production of a lady. The large medal was suspended on a double silver chain, upon which were hung a smaller medal, having on one side a figure of the Pope, on the other a St. Nicholas, and beneath could be seen a painting of exquisite beauty; and further, a cross, representing a crucifix, with the year 1844 thereon. Large sums have in vain been offered for this curious treasure.—*Letter from a French Officer in the Crimea.*

#### THE BATTLE-FIELD OF INKERMAN.

THE scene which our Artist has here depicted is one which he witnessed in crossing the battle-field on the 5th of November, at the time when the Russians were retreating. On horseback or on foot it was impossible to pass along without treading on the wounded or the dead, so thickly was the ground covered with them. A sergeant who had been in the very midst of the deadly struggle thus describes how he felt when he went home to the Camp and found none of his comrades there:—

The worst I felt was, when I came home and found all my comrades missing, and did not know whether they were dead or wounded; but had to go amongst the dead and wounded in the dark to see whom we could find. I was passing, with some more of my comrades, with as many of the wounded as we could get along, and there was one of our poor fellows, lying on the ground beside some that were dead, with both his thighs shot through, one of which was fractured very much. He did not even utter a groan, but simply said, "Sergeant, is there any chance for us to-night?" I said, "We will come back and fetch you;" but the night was so dark that we could not find him, neither did anybody else, so he had to lie all the next day; but the poor fellow has since died of his wounds.

Another soldier gives the following description of the battle-field, a few days afterwards:—

I have just been over the ground on which the battle of Inkerman was fought. Many relics of that day still remain—Russian cartridges not yet broken—ramrods—Minié-balls—Russian pouches—belts—old gun-barrels doubled up—fragments of clothing, &c.; but, above all, some hundreds of round shot and shells unburst lay about in all directions. The graves of our brave men who fell on that day are also to be seen, their heads marked by pyramids of the deadly missiles by which so many fell. The graves of the enemy are still more conspicuous. From the number left dead on the field it was found impossible to dig a grave for each; so that their last resting-place is known by the dimensions of the earth thrown up—a piece about eight feet wide and as many yards long, containing, perhaps, some twenty or thirty of these poor fellows. Twice has the ground been fought over; twice have the enemy been repulsed; twice have we toiled to bury their dead. Thus





OUR ARTIST ON THE BATTLE-FIELD OF INKERMAN.

I went musing on, until a shell burst in the air some hundred feet over my head. This broke my reverie, and caused me to look around. When I discovered that the shot was intended for a working party at a redoubt, now nearly finished, which overlooks the mouth of the Tchernaya, on its entrance to the harbour. Many minutes had not elapsed before up came others, which, at first, fell harmless, but I afterwards observed some fall among the works. These shots were fired from the mud tower—from the steamer which moves up and down the harbour, and from a three-gun battery on the Inkerman opposite.

The Russian wounded and ours are equally taken from the battle-field and conveyed to the hospitals. They have an equal share of attention; and, if the Russians are neglected, so are our own countrymen. The first thing we do with the Russian prisoners, when they are taken to head-quarters, is to feed them, even though they come in the middle of the night; and while in the keeping of Captain Macdonald, the Provost-Marshal, they have a dry floor to lie on, and a roof to protect them from rain, and their rations are better and more abundant than ever they had before.

The following extract is from the letter of a servant, whose master, an officer in the British army, was killed at the battle of Inkerman:—

I was with my poor master in all his engagements, attending him as near as possible. We lay down together at night in his tent, and the same blanket covered us. It took me eight hours to pick him out from the dead; and when I found him his rough coat had been stripped off him. He had five bayonet wounds, and his under-coat was riddled with shot. I wrapped him up in his cloak and two blankets, and carried him over the dead to his tent, laid him out, lit a fire outside of his tent, and watched over him all night. The next morning I got a stubborn jibbing mule and a gun-carriage, and laid him thereon, to take him down to Balaklava to his brother, who had arrived out to see him about three days before. With difficulty I got along the road, about eight miles, when I met some blue-jackets—four. I told them what I was doing, and asked their help. "Ay, ay, my lad, we'll help you." They went into a field, got two bullocks and a cart, put the body on it, and most carefully conducted it to Balaklava; and when I offered to reward them not a farthing or a drop would any of them accept. Brave fellows, those blue-jackets! I then went on board one of the ships, had a coffin made, put the body into it, and buried it in the churchyard of Balaklava. Then I raised a headboard and planted his grave with cypress; and whenever after I went there, there I found the younger brother of my late master, Sir R. N.—. I sailed with him from Balaklava in the *Medway*, and came overland to England. No tongue can describe the horrors of the battle of Inkerman. I was there waiting for my master, having his telescope slung round me, with a bottle of water, two potatoes in my pocket, a bit of ham and a biscuit, and a small bottle of rum.

As a great deal has been said about the way in which the ambulance corps neglected its duty, the following letter from James M'Devitt, of the battalion of enrolled pensioners, who went out as a volunteer to serve in the ambulance corps attached to the army in the Crimea, will show that one member of that corps, at least, did his duty at Inkerman. M'Devitt, writing on the 1st from the Scutari Barracks, where he lay wounded, tells

how he volunteered at Varna, sailed to the Crimea, and was present at Alma, and proceeds:—

I was then told off to the Second Division, and joined the same on the heights of Sebastopol. I was present at all the little affairs that happened; I moved out with skirmishers on the 26th October, but did not get hit. I saw that affair over, and nothing happened until the 5th of November, when the enemy appeared in massive columns in the morning at about a quarter to six o'clock. I then moved up to the heights and attached myself to an artillery gun, which I saw was deficient of men, and served ammunition until it was all done. I then descended from the heights, and placed myself on the right of No. 4 company of the 95th Regiment. The officer commanding the company was Mr. Browne. I asked his liberty to fall in, and he said, "Certainly, old fellow." It was a 95th firelock and ammunition that I got from a wounded man in rear of the company. I remained on the right of the company doing duty until I got hit by a musket-ball in the centre of my left arm. I was then compelled to fall to the rear from excessive loss of blood, and was in a fainting state when I reached the hospital, from which I was compelled to retire, for the enemy's shell and shot were surrounding it on all sides. I got my arm bandaged up, and went on board ship at Balaklava along with the wounded for Constantinople. I arrived here on the 9th of the month. I do not know whether I shall have the use of my arm again or not.

#### DR. BRETT'S HOSPITAL AMBULANCE.

DURING the past year Dr. Brett, a retired surgeon of the Bengal Medical Staff, was selected for a particular service with the army in Turkey under the command of Lord Raglan; when, by the wish of the Director-General of the Army Medical Department, the Doctor was instructed to organise a native Hospital Corps of Palanquin or Doolie Bearers and attendants on the sick and wounded. The Commander of the Forces did not, however, avail himself of Dr. Brett's services; but, on his departure for England, he received Lord Raglan's thanks, as well as the acknowledgment of his "praiseworthy and patriotic exertions" from Mr. Sidney Herbert, Secretary-at-War. The Doctor then laid before the Medical Department—

1st. A report on the climate and diseases of Turkey, and on the means of preserving the health of the soldier in that country; every word of which has been verified by the result.

2nd. Hospital doolies on an improved plan, for the conveyance of the sick and wounded, submitted, with a specimen and drawings.

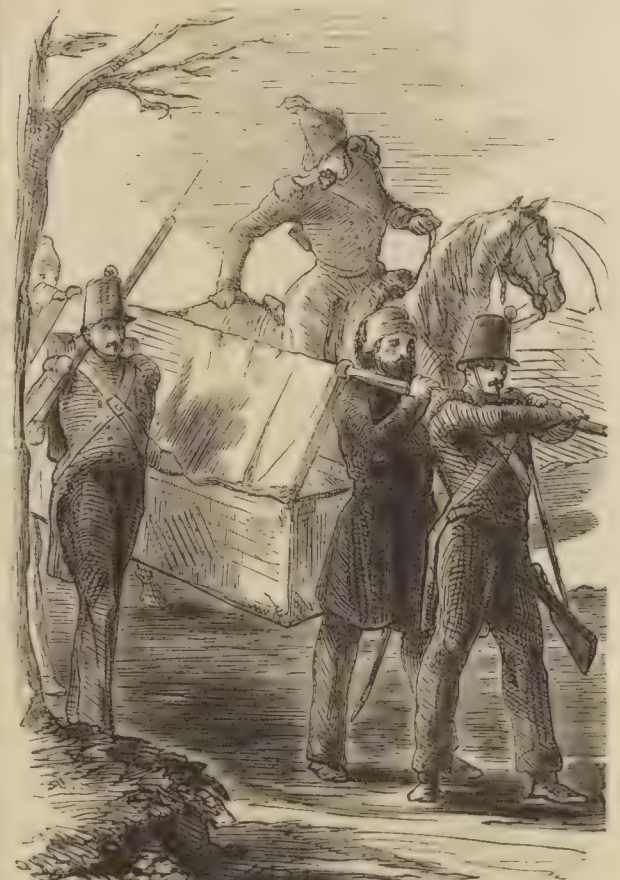
3rd. A model camel-litter, constructed with improvements on the plan of my camel-litters invented in India for the troopers of the Governor-General's body-guard, to which regiment I belonged.

Sick officers (writes Dr. Brett) were daily being brought in from Devna, eighteen miles off, in carts, thus proving how valuable would have been the establishment of an efficient set of doolies and doolie-bearers, as intended to have been formed by the Director-General.

Notwithstanding these acknowledged special services, they were dispensed with, as Dr. Brett complained in a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, in a manner injurious to him professionally amongst his relations and connections. His main proposition was the formation of a Hospital Corps of Turkish subjects. This was, however, rejected; and upon his return to England Dr. Brett published his plan, wherein he states that—

Eight hundred hardy enduring Turks (the ordinary porters of the country) would have done the work well. It was intended that each man should carry a light water-bag (Mussuk) and a drinking-cup. The roads of the country of Bulgaria were so very bad, that carts could be with difficulty drawn, and the cattle broke down. Hark to that sigh of exhaustion from a fine young officer the descendant of an illustrious family. He is in the last stage of a Bulgarian fever. But there is still hope. The ambulance arrives and receives his shattered frame; the horses, however, break down on the wretched road, and he is in despair of reaching the transport which is to convey him for change of air to the Bosphorus—by chance a fatigue party arrives—he is lifted out of the ambulance, and carried on their shoulders; but it is now too late—he expires on the shore. The litters, or palanquins, would have saved many lives, much agony to the soldiers, and many a heart-rending pang to their bereaved friends and relatives in England.

The ambulance-waggons were well constructed, but they were left behind at Varna. My litters were so light and portable that they would have occupied scarcely any space (inflated indiarubber cushions and pillows);\* and, I doubt not, would have been of great use at the battle of the Alma.



DR. BRETT'S AMBULANCE LITTER.

I have seen (adds Dr. Brett) the advantages of my own doolies and doolie-bearers, of my camel-litters, as well as of the French mule-litters; and I have great pleasure in adding that one of the most distinguished and talented general officers of the present day, Sir Harry Smith, whom I knew in India, and whom I had the pleasure of meeting last week at Downing-street, remarked that the "Director-General's idea of forming a hospital corps of palanquin and doolie bearers was an excellent one, and would have proved a boon indeed to the sick and wounded of any army."

It may not be yet too late for the Medical Department to avail itself of the above plan for the abatement of human suffering.

\* Inflatable at pleasure, and the whole apparatus could have been taken to pieces, and several litters carried with ease by one man. It is computed that the transports alone in the Black Sea cost the Government £45,000 a day. An ambulance establishment of 400 hardy Turks, who live upon a loaf of bread, stewed bears, and a pipe of tobacco, would cost about £16 per diem.



THE GUARDS CONVEYING A WOUNDED OFFICER FROM INKERMAN.





THE GUARDS PRACTISING AT THE VICTORIA RIFLE-GROUND, KILBURN.

DRILL OF THE GUARDS AT THE VICTORIA RIFLE CORPS GROUND.—NEW DRESS.

A CONVENIENT space of ground to the left of the village of Kilburn, on the London and North-Western Railway, has lately been appropriated to the exercise of the Victoria Rifle Corps. Here, also, the Guards have been exercised for some time past; one party practising in the morning, and another in the afternoon. Our Artist's Sketch shows the practice.



NEW DRILL DRESS FOR THE GUARDS.

In another column we have engraved the New Dress to be provided for all the Infantry Regiments in the service before April next, as well as for the recruits who are now admitted. The new dress is a red coat, with white cuffs and brass buttons. The trousers are black cloth for winter; in the summer they will wear white, as usual. When in full dress there will be, in addition to that sketched, one cross-belt and a waist-belt. The men approve of them as being more comfortable than the present dress, and are glad to get rid of the quantity of white and epaulettes which their present coat bears.

We may here add that it is stated to be the intention of Government to increase the strength of the three battalions of Guards in the Crimea by 1000 bayonets—viz., 3rd battalion of Grenadier Guards, 300 men; 1st battalion of Coldstream Guards, 350 men; and Scots Fusilier Guards, 1st battalion, 350 men. The Household Brigade of Infantry is in a position to spare nearly double that number, having obtained large reinforcements of volunteers from the militia, and also been very successful in obtaining recruits; the volunteers, being mostly well disciplined, could at once be sent to the seat of war, if required; but it is believed that no further reinforcements will be sent out to the Crimea before the latter part of the next month.

RUSSIAN MEDAL.

We have been favoured by a Correspondent with the accompanying sketch of a Medal taken by an officer of the 63rd Regiment (just returned to this country) from a Russian, killed by him in the battle of Inkerman, 5th of November, 1854. The Medal is of silver. Over the Russian Arms is the triangle, representing the Deity, with the eye of Providence enclosed, shedding rays of glory on the outspread double-headed eagle. "Hear, O ye heathen, and submit, for God is with us!" is in the old Slavonic, while the inscription on the reverse is in the modern Russian characters. ("For the Pacification of Hungary and Transylvania, 1849.") The red and black colours of the ribbon represent the Order of Vladimir. In the small shield on the breast of the eagle is St. George killing the dragon.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

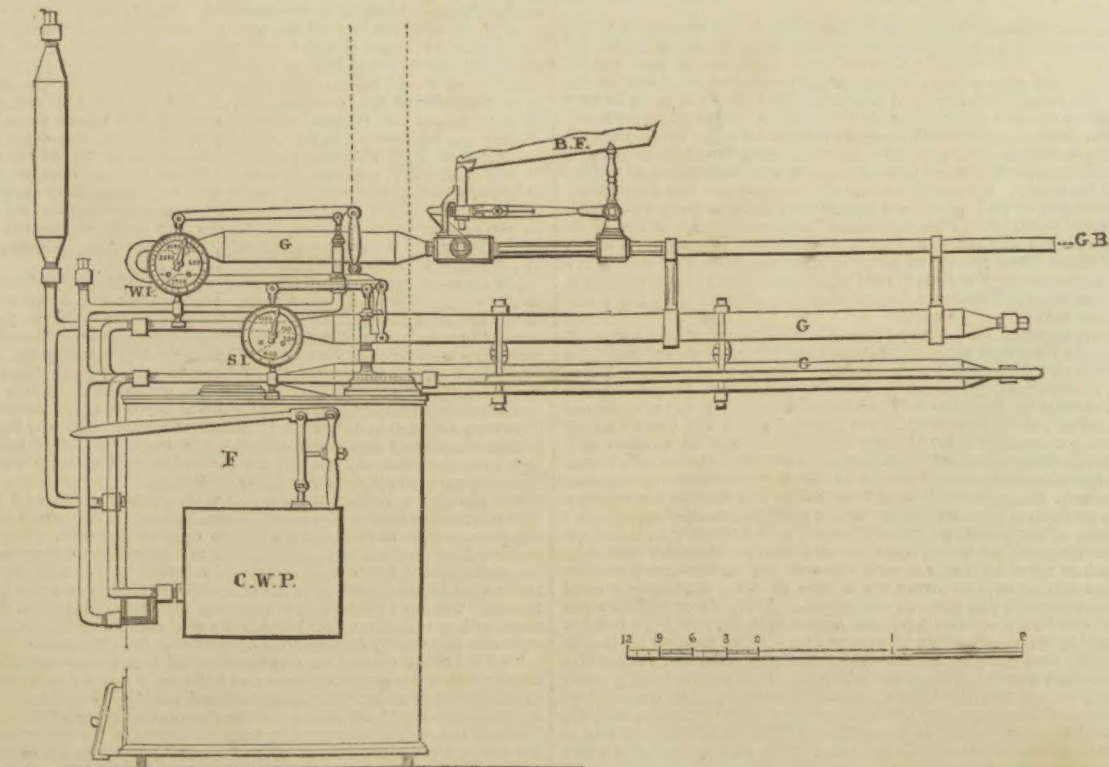
For the last half-year, and since the new management, the rallying cry at this well-established and popular place of amusement and instruction has been "advancement;" and, judging from the thousands of the industrial classes who attend the regular courses of lectures, now delivered every Monday evening, the management have cause to congratulate themselves on this extension of the benefits of the Institution. The lecture last Monday evening was by the Rev. B. Power, M.A., Principal of the Diocesan Schools, Norwich, "On Electro-Magnetic Instruments, and their remarkable Applications." This gentleman inaugurated the Monday evening lectures in August last, and was most warmly received by the audience, whom he afterwards delighted with a review of the general facts in Electro-magnetism, taking his hearers gradually to the newest improvements, and ending with many anticipations of the probable advantages of this application of Electricity to the human race.

We cannot altogether pass by the new and beautiful optical Diorama of Sinbad the Sailor, which appears to delight both old and young, and is certainly one of the best dissolving views and phantasmagoria results ever produced by the aid of the oxy-hydrogen light.

In catering for the peace-loving part of the community, the manage-



RUSSIAN MEDAL.



G G G. Generating apparatus. F. Furnace. C W P. Cold water pump. W I. Water indicator. S I. Steam indicator. G B. Gun-barrel. B F. Bullet feeder.

THE STEAM-GUN, AT THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.



ment has not forgotten the warlike propensities of the other; and in due commemoration of some of England's proudest deeds projects those aerial harmless images of war's alarms and horrible deeds; on the passive screen thus depicting the famous Alma, Inkerman, and Sebastopol; and, as if "to drink full deep of horrors," even arms Mr. Johns, the lecturer on Mechanics, with terrible Lancasters, Minié rifles, and the various improvements in firearms. But the great gun is decidedly that which works by steam, viz., our old friend of Adelaide Gallery standing, with a new and most improved countenance; for, whilst the old form of the steam-gun projected but 60 bullets per minute, the new one at the Polytechnic discharges no less than 250 balls in the same period of time. To effect this enormous increase in the vomiting powers of the apparatus certain improvements have been effected by Mr. Perkins, the son of the original inventor, of which we give an engraving. Supposing that the generating apparatus, which produces the steam at a pressure of from 200 to 600 lbs. per square inch, to remain as in the old steam-gun, Mr. Perkins has facilitated the discharge of the bullets by the improved feeding apparatus shown in our sectional drawing.

The bullets, as discharged against the target at the Polytechnic, are completely reduced to their *lamine*; and if the discharge is made in a darkened room, many of the bullets, as they flatten against the target, emit a light sometimes blue and at others red, thus realising to a certain extent the new theory promulgated by a philosopher in the North, that the light of the sun is produced by the collision of so many miles of asteroids continually against the body of that vast luminary.

Besides the steam-gun, there are the beautiful experiments of Professor Wheatstone, explained by Mr. Pepper, by which four of Erard's harps play sweet but mysterious music, without visible hands, as the sounds are conducted to them by rods from instruments played upon by performers who are placed several floors beneath the lecture-room. Altogether, such a spirited and really good assemblage of sterling novelties cannot fail to attract the public attention.

## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE ORIGIN OF CHESS.

BY DR. DUNCAN FORBES.

### CHAPTER VII.—ON THE INVENTION OF CHESS IN INDIA, ACCORDING TO THE ARABS AND PERSIANS.

(Continued from page 35.)

"THE elder brother, being the more humane and intelligent of the two, used every exertion in his power to restore peace and reconciliation. He said to the younger, 'Let our mother's kingdom, in the first place, be divided into two equal parts, then you shall choose for yourself that half which may best please you.' To this fair and generous proposal, the younger brother would by no means listen; for he attributed the elder's forbearance and moderation solely to his timidity and cowardice. In short, Talkhand openly took the field with such forces as he could assemble; and Gau, however peacefully inclined, was compelled to go to war with his own brother in self-defence. In the very first engagement Talkhand's forces were totally defeated, and he himself, mounted on a superb white elephant, was hurried from the field in the midst of the flight. The victorious army, mounted on swift horses, gave instant pursuit, with strict orders to make Talkhand prisoner, but not to hurt one hair of his head. At last the victors completely surrounded the young Prince, conspicuous from the white elephant which he rode. The sagacious animal stood motionless as a statue, and as they began to assist the Prince to alight, they found that his heart had been broken and his proud spirit had departed. Thus died Talkhand, without any wound from his adversaries, but solely because he could not survive the utter ruin of his army, the triumph of his conquerors, and the humiliation he must have to undergo in the presence of his brother.

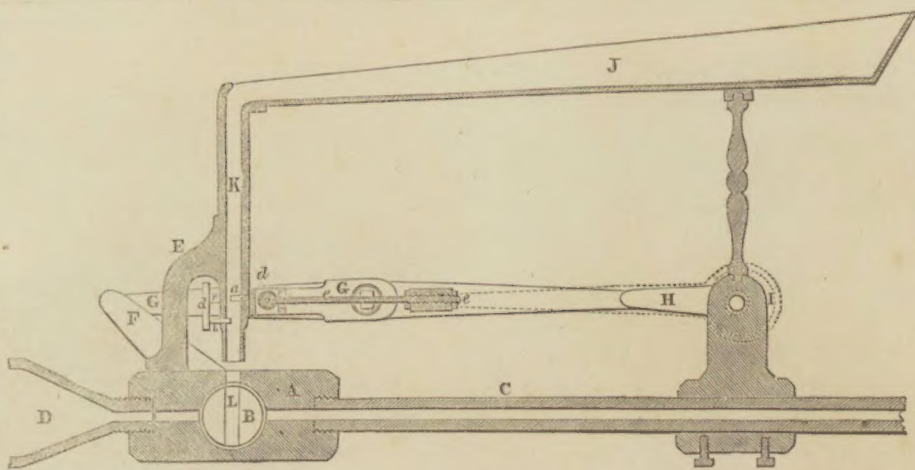
"When the mournful tidings reached the Queen-mother, she became inconsolable for the loss of her younger son. She even upbraided the survivor, Gau, as the cause of his brother's death. In vain did the Prince assert his innocence, and offered to prove, by numberless witnesses, that he was in no way accountable for the death of his brother. The mother disbelieved them all, and refused to be comforted; nor would she even suffer her surviving son to appear in her sight. On this occasion it was that Sassa, the son of Dahir, modified the ancient game of Chess, as we have already stated in our 'first account.' He brought the board and pieces into the presence of the Queen, both as the means of distracting her sorrow, and with a view to explain to her how the battle had been conducted on both sides. He showed her how the two forces stood on the field, and how at length Talkhand, surrounded by his opponents, died of a broken heart, on which occasion those around him exclaimed 'Shāh-māt,' or 'Shāh-mānd,' which signifies 'the Prince is dead,' or the Prince 'is reduced to the last extremity.' The Queen felt a mournful interest in this rare game, which she daily played with Sassa, and at length she became convinced of her surviving son's veracity and innocence."

In concluding this chapter, I may briefly state that Sassa and Dahir were real personages, both having figured in history as Princes of the Brāhman dynasty that reigned in Sind about the commencement of the Muhammadan era. In fact Sassa was the first Indian Prince with whom the Arabs came in contact, when, in order to propagate their newly-adopted religion, they carried their victorious arms towards the banks of the Indus.

Hence, without much examination, they conferred on Sassa the honour of having invented Chess, or (as our anonymous scribe will have it) of having modified the older game. It so happens also (as we know from Indian histories) that Sassa was the elder, and Dahir the son, or nephew; though this point is of very little importance, as both of them lived nearly a century after Naushirwān.

The three accounts of the invention of Chess given by our anonymous author are fair examples of the traditions on the subject current among the Arabs and Persians: always excepting the conclusion, which is entirely his own, and not mentioned by any other writer. He repeatedly asserts that Sassa was not the inventor, but merely the improver of an older game of the kind; nor is he very scrupulous on the score of perverting his authorities in order suit his own purpose. For instance, in the third account—which, as he states, he has abridged from the poet Firdausi—he, with the coolest effrontery, falsifies that eminent author's statement. The great poet says not a word about Sassa, nor of the game of the Greeks. He merely states that Gau summoned into his presence all the wise men of his kingdom, and desired them to draw up a plan of the battle, that it might be shown to his mother the Queen. The wise men sat in deliberation for a day and a night, and the result was the invention of the game of Chess. He mentions no name in particular, as he attributes the invention to the collective wisdom of the Indian sages. The story of Sassa is a more recent legend of the Arabs, devised merely to give the invention a sort of "a local habitation and a name."

I believe, however, with the anonymous author, that what the writers of Western Asia considered as the original invention of Chess, really meant the change of the Chaturanga into the Shatranj. The existence of the game of Hermes the Grecian sage, played by Alexander the Great, his officers and soldiers, is really too absurd to deserve a moment's consideration; as every one conversant with Greek literature and the game of Chess will readily admit. To those not so qualified to judge, one story is just as good as another; so I make them heartily welcome to their own opinions. At the same time, I think it is not altogether impossible to account for the anonymous author's perversions and falsehoods. He apparently lived at Timur's Court; for in his book he has given eighteen problems or positions that occurred in actual play to Ali-Shatranji—the finest player of that period, and probably one of the best that ever lived. He not only gives the problems, but a great number of minute particulars respecting them, such as the odds given, the party who was the opponent, and whether Ali played with or without seeing the board—all of which particulars could have been noticed only by one who was present. Well, the great Timur was partial to the "Perfect Chess" (as our author calls it), that is the board of ten squares by eleven—of which more hereafter. Timur detested the Hindis because they were idolaters, and despised them because they had allowed him to overrun their country. Hence our author, in order to gratify his patron's humour, gives out that the Great Chess was the original, and patronised by Alexander the Macedonian, who introduced it into India; and that, after all, the Hindis were "too stupid to comprehend it," till Sassa simplified it so as to make it square with their weak capacities. Such a gross fabrication would easily pass current with Timur, who was more conversant with arms than with books; and the obsequious courtiers would readily confirm such doctrines as appeared to gratify their Sovereign.



J. Hopper in which the bullets are placed; they fall into tube k, and are there supported by the projecting pin a. D. Extremity of generator where the steam escapes. L. Point to which the bullets drop by an eccentric, marked i, connected by means of a rod e producing a reciprocating motion in the pins, a b, thus permitting the gunner by one movement of the handle to drop a bullet in the steam passage i, and discharge it almost simultaneously through the barrel c.

### SECTION OF THE STEAM-GUN.

### CHAPTER VIII.—ACCOUNT OF ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPT WORKS ON CHESS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM, AND IN THE LIBRARY OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

BEFORE we come to discuss the principles of Mediaeval Chess, it may be well to give a brief account of the manuscript works which I follow as my authorities. These are three in number; and, fortunately, they are public property, easily accessible to those able and willing to examine their contents. The first is an Arabic manuscript (No. 7515) in the British Museum. It is a quarto volume of 132 leaves, and averaging 16 lines to each page—that is, where no diagrams occur. It was written, or, more properly speaking, copied, in A.D. 1257; and, consequently, is now nearly 600 years old. The author's name is not given; but, from circumstances to be mentioned, we may safely infer that he lived within a century previous to the above date. The authorship of the volume is absurdly attributed to "Hasan of Basra," one of the early Muhammadan doctors, who died A.D. 728. The only authority for this fiction is, that in the preface there is a quotation of a general nature from the "sage of Basra," recommending to people "some innocent amusement after the mind has been fatigued with care or much study," which pithy advice will be found to apply as much to leap-frog or to blindman's-buff, as to Chess. On this slender foundation, however, the knavish bookdealer entitled the work "Shatranj al Basri," which they construe into "a treatise on Chess by Hasan of Basra." Yea, further, in order to conceal the trick, they had the precaution to erase from the preface the name of the Prince to whom the book was dedicated. However, we know from the titles employed in the dedication, that the Prince was one of the Ayūbide dynasty, that ruled for a brief period over Egypt and Syria; that is, he was either the renowned Saladin himself, or one of his immediate successors. In the East, as of late among ourselves, the Princes of certain dynasties were addressed by certain titles and epithets whereby they might be known, just as we used to read of "His Most Christian Majesty of France," or "His Most Catholic Majesty of Spain," or their "High Mightinesses of Holland." With regard to the contents of this volume, they may be briefly described, because a large and valuable portion of it is missing. The first seven leaves may be passed over as containing nothing of importance. The eighth leaf commences the main business by enumerating the five classes into which Chess-players may be divided; of which very sensible division, more hereafter. Between the 8th and 9th folio there is what the learned call a *hiatus valde defensus*. Folio 9th and 10th treat of the equality of force at the end of a game, together with the relative values of the various pieces; and, from the minuteness and fullness with which the author explains this part of his subject, we may infer that the missing portion contained an account of everything relating to the theory and practice of the game on the same ample scale. The rest of the work consists of some 200 diagrams, containing "openings of games" (eleven in number), and positions or problems, in which either mate is forced in a certain number of moves, or the weaker player, by skilful play, draws the game. These are accompanied with solutions at full length, and would have sufficed, even if we had no other work on the subject, to give us a fair idea of the manner in which Chess was played 600 years ago.

My next authority is a Persian manuscript (No. 16,856), in the British Museum. It is an octavo volume, containing sixty-three leaves, ten lines to the page. It was copied A.D. 1612, and the author lived in the time of the Emperor Humāyūn, of Delhi, to whom it is dedicated, somewhat more than 300 years ago. It is a translation and abridgment of an older work in the Arabic language, entitled "Munijh fi ilm al Shatranj," or the "Chess-player's Monitor." It has been already fully described by my friend N. Bland, Esq., in his essay, entitled "Persian Chess," 8vo, 1850, and since then published in the "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society." It is divided into twelve chapters, of which the first five are mere puerilities. The 6th and 7th treat of the morals and amenities of Chess, together with a few judicious advices to the players; the 8th, on drawn games; the 9th, on the openings; the 10th, on trifles, such as the well-known feat of the Knight in covering the sixty-four squares in so many moves, &c.; the 11th is valuable as it gives an excellent selection of end-games on diagrams, together with their solutions. The 12th contains directions for playing without seeing the board.

My third authority is a Persian manuscript (No. 260), belonging to the Library of the Royal Asiatic Society. This MS. has been very fully described by Mr. Bland, in the Essay above mentioned, to which I refer the reader. I may mention, however, in passing, that Mr. Bland and myself differ, *totò cœlo*, on the subject of Oriental Chess—but it is not proverbial that "doctors disagree!" The MS. consists of 64 leaves, quarto size, finely written, 15 lines to the page. One-half consists of diagrams of very interesting positions, without any solutions; and the other half of descriptive writing. The work is both imperfect and misarranged, there being scarcely one leaf placed where it ought to be. On careful perusal, however, I have found that twenty-eight of the leaves, if properly arranged, would form a complete sequence without any break, and the other four are uncertain. The following is the order of the subjects as intended by the author:—1st, a detached leaf, forming part of the preface, the purport of which is to convince the reader of the author's prodigious merits especially in Chess. Then follow 12½ folios on the beneficial effects of Chess: this subject is complete, with the exception of a few lines at the commencement. Then 7½ folios, giving a complete account of the "Perfect Chess," or "Timur's Great Game." This chapter is, fortunately, entire, and it is, probably, the only account we have of that monster game. Then we have 7½ folios on the invention of the common game in India. This chapter also is complete, and the substance of it has been already given in our Chapter VII. Two chapters on the relative value of the pieces, and on the gradations of odds, are also complete as to the subjects; though they do not, apparently, contain all that the author wrote thereon. Lastly, a folio and a half on drawn games, &c., incomplete, and partly illegible.

The diagrams are sixty-four in number, and consist chiefly of end-games won by force. The first two diagrams are illegible; but, fortunately, they merely contained openings, of which we have abundance in the two preceding MSS. Of the end-games, the most valuable are the eighteen positions of Khāja Ali Shatranji—which, as I have already stated, are from actual play. All the rest are said to have been invented by various eminent players (whose names are given), from the Caliph Al-Mutazim Billāh, downwards. It is a curious fact, however, that among the number, there is not one of the author's own invention; although in his preface he boasts of having made wonderful improvements in every department of Chess. In truth, the author must have been a singular character, and, had we received his book entire, it would undoubtedly have proved an extraordinary production. In justice to this writer, I shall here give a literal translation of what remains of his own preface, which, it must be confessed, is a very promising one. It may also lead to the discovery, in India or Persia, of a complete copy of the work. The author seems to have (in the missing portion) been recommending Chess as an excellent medicine both for the body and mind; and then he proceeds to tell the reader what he has himself done in Chess, and also what he is going to write thereon. There is a quaint vein of godliness that runs throughout the fragment, such as to command our belief in the good man's sincerity, although the style does occasionally approach that of the Baron Munchausen:—

"\*\*\* And many a one has experienced relief from sorrow and affliction in consequence of this magic recreation; and this same fact has been asserted by the celebrated physician 'Muhammad Zakaria Rāzi,' in his book entitled, 'The Essences of Things;' and such is likewise the opinion of the physician, 'Ali bin Firdaus,' as I shall notice more fully towards the end of the present work, for the composing of which I am in hope of receiving my reward from God, who is Most High and Glorious.

"I have passed my life since the age of fifteen years among all the masters of Chess living in my time; and since that period till now, when I have arrived

at middle age, I have travelled through Irāk Arab and Irāk Ajam, and Khurāsān, and the regions of Māwarā-ul-Nahr (Transoxiana), and I have there encountered many a master in this art, and I have played with all of them; and, through the favour of Him who is Adorable and Most High, I have come off victorious.

"Likewise, in playing without seeing the board, I have overcome most opponents, nor had they the power to cope with me. I, the humble sinner now addressing you, have frequently played with one opponent over the board, and at the same time I have carried on four different games with as many adversaries without seeing the board, whilst I conversed freely with my friends all along, and through the Divine favour I conquered them all. Also in the great Chess I have invented sundry positions; as well as several openings which no one else ever imagined or thought of.

"There are a great number of ingenious positions that have occurred to me in the course of my experience, in the common game, as practised at the present day; and many positions given as won by the older masters I have either proved to be capable of defence, or I have made the necessary corrections in them, so that they now stand what they were originally intended to be. I have also improved and rendered more complete all the rare and cunning stratagems hitherto recorded or invented by the first masters of Chess. In short, I have here laid before the reader all that I have myself discovered from experience, as well as whatever I found to be rare and excellent in the labours of my predecessors.

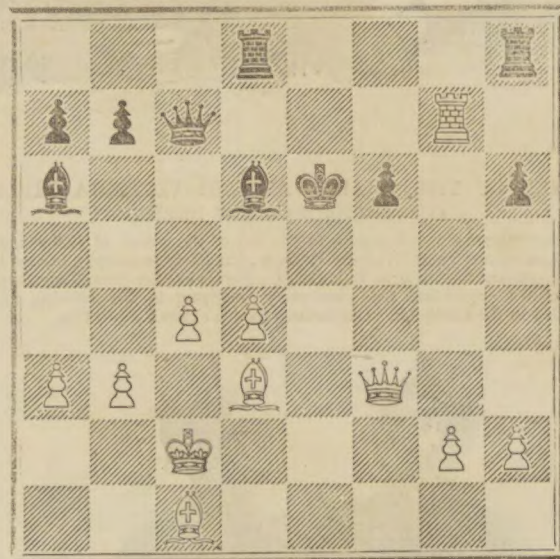
"In the first place I will make clear to you that the 'Perfect Chess' is the original; I will then inform you who invented it, and where it was invented, and on what occasion the invention took place. I will also detail to you in full how it found its way into India, and at what period they abridged it there, so that all men may know that the people of India are not the inventors of Chess, for they have not in them sufficient knowledge and wisdom to have done so, and they never had. I will also present you with the best modes of opening the game, for therein consists the very root and foundation of good play; and I will instruct you how to conduct your game after it is opened, and I will lay before you a great variety of the most rare and ingenious stratagems, whereby you may be enabled either to win or draw in situations which to the uninitiated might appear desperate. I will also instruct you as to the exact value of the pieces, without knowing which you cannot be a player. I will tell you too, the various grades of odds which people give and receive; and, finally, I will unfold unto you the nature of such situations as lead to a drawn game, which may occur towards the end of a combat."

Here follows one sentence more, of very little importance, about the well-known tour of the Knight round the board; and this is all that we possess of the author's preface.

I conclude this chapter with one of the eighteen problems given by the anonymous author as those by Khāja Ali Shatranji. It will be found in fol. 11, b, and is said to have occurred to Ali when playing against an opponent to whom he had given the odds of the Queen's Rook. The position is quite simple and natural. Ali had the White, and we see that already he has gained two Pawns of his opponent. There must have been a good deal of manoeuvring with the Knights and Rook on the part of Ali so as to have brought the game to this state. It is now White's move, and we see that his Rook can take the Black Queen at once, for the Black Bishop does not command the square she is on—but checkmate is much better. The reader will bear in mind that in the mediaeval game the Queen commanded only the four diagonal squares next to her, and the Bishops, the four diagonal squares next to them but one; in short the Bishop was the weakest of the pieces, as there were only eight squares on the board on which he could leap, backwards and forwards, without any change.

### POSITION BY ALI SHATRANJI.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in eight moves.

**Solution.**—1st. White, P checks; Black, K to his 4th square. 2nd. White, R to K's 7th, checking; Black, K to his B's 5th. 3rd. White, R to K's 4th, checking; Black, K to his Kt's 4th. 4th. White, R to K's Kt's 4th, checking; Black, K to his R's 4th. 5th. White, R to K's Kt's 7th (*coup de repos*); Black, K's B's Pawn one square (best). 6th. White, B takes the Pawn (being on one of the squares which he commands). If either of the Black Rooks now move to their K's Kt's square, with a view to exchange or drive away the White Rook—then, 7th. White, Queen to K's Kt's 4th, checking; Black, K to his R's 5th; and 8th. White, Kt's Pawn mates. If for his 6th move, Black K moves to his R's 5th—then 7th. White, Queen to K's Kt's 4th; and let Black play as he may, the Knight's Pawn gives mate next move.

**WORKING OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY.**—The first train started from Howrah, opposite Calcutta, on the 15th of August last, and we have now the experience of sixteen weeks to assist us in forming some estimate of the prospects of the rail at this Presidency. It was confidently asserted that no return of any importance was to be expected from passengers, that the natives of India had been reduced by the extortion and the oppression of Government to such a state of destitution that they could not afford this mode of conveyance. It was believed that their habits were so unchangeable that nothing would induce them to adopt a mode of conveyance unknown to their ancestors, and that the rail must depend for its dividends solely on the transport of goods. The result of the last sixteen weeks' experience has completely demolished all these suppositions. The line for the first twenty-five miles runs along the banks of the Hooghly, lined with villages and towns, and the rail had, therefore to sustain a competition with scores of boats which conveyed passengers that distance every day for 2½d. Yet the number of passengers of the third class amounted at first weekly to 2400. Then it was said that this was only a metropolitan traffic, made up of men who lived out of Calcutta, but transacted business in it, and that as soon as the line began to run into the country, apart from the river traffic, the number of passengers would in all probability decrease. In the first week of September the line was opened from Hooghly to Pundooah, an insignificant town, without manufactures, or wealth, or population, and at right angles with the river. To the surprise of all, the traffic was immediately doubled, and it has steadily increased since that time, and the average number of third-class passengers in the last three weeks has been 6700. No one was prepared for so astounding a result. No one ever dreamt that the middling classes and the upper section of the lower classes would take to the rail with so much animation and delight. The inveterate habits of twenty centuries are now rapidly disappearing under the influence of this great instrument of civilisation. For the first time in the history of his native land the Hindoo beginning to learn and to exemplify the truth that time is money. The railway Company, which acts under the entire control of the Government, has wisely fixed the charge for third-class passengers at a pice a mile. To illustrate the effect of this low tariff I would state that on the Great Western, which is a comparatively cheap line, the charge for a third-class passenger from Paddington to Bristol would be, I think, 9s. 6d.; the charge for the same distance on our line is 3s. 9d. It is too early in the progress of the enterprise to calculate returns; we must proceed to a greater distance, and reach some of the great commercial marts which lie in the road to Delhi, before any reliable estimate can be made of the probable profits.—*Letter from Calcutta.*

**DR. COMARMOND, the Conservator of Antiquities in the Museum of Lyons,** is taking measures for a general classification of the antiquities at all kinds which it is expected will be discovered in the cuttings and excavations about to be made for forming conduits and canals, and for the underground passage of the Lyons Railway.



## LITERATURE.

THE FORMATION AND PROGRESS OF THE TIERS ETAT, OR THIRD ESTATE, OF FRANCE. By AUGUSTINE THIERRY. Translated by the Rev. F. B. WELLS. Two Volumes. Bosworth.

This little book—the summary of long labours on the part of its learned author—has been produced under circumstances as remarkable as “untoward.” Intended as “an introduction to a collection of unpublished records of the history of the Tiers Etat, one of the publications of historical documents ordered under the last reign,” M. Thierry, after deep research and mature deliberation, had fully possessed himself of the beauty, unity, and simplicity of his theme; and was prepared to evolve it, in continuous unbroken order, from the point of departure in the tenth century to the day of writing in the nineteenth. According to this view, the Tiers Etat had always borne an important part, “in a slow but always progressive influence, upon the social life of the country;” or, going only back over the space of six centuries, one circumstance which especially struck the author was that, “from the twelfth to the eighteenth century, the history of the Tiers Etat and that of the Royal power were indissolubly bound together in such a manner that, in the eyes of him who really understands them, one is, to use the expression, the counterpart of the other. From the accession of Louis le Gros to the death of Louis XIV., each decisive epoch in the progress of the different classes of the *roture* in liberty, prosperity, enlightenment, and social importance, corresponds, in the series of the reigns, with the name of some great King or of some great Minister.” The eighteenth century for the first time saw an interruption of the alliance between the first and the third estates (to the exclusion of the second) on the continuance of which M. Thierry considered the “national development,” and the establishment of a system of civil and political liberty, of “a Government at once free and monarchical,” depended. There was in 1789-93 a temporary divorce between the Crown and the people; and “the work of the Constituent Assembly of 1791, badly put together, crumbled to pieces almost immediately, and the Monarchy was destroyed.”

Not so, however, the faith of M. Thierry in a great principle,—that of the all-prevailing and all-efficacious influence of a Tiers Etat acting in partnership with Royalty. Twenty-two years elapsed, during which “it seemed that every tie was broken between New France and the Royalty of former days.” But it only seemed so; the bonds of society were only buried beneath a surface of agitation, not broken. In the words of M. Thierry:—

But the result of the Constitutional Governments of 1814 and of 1830 was to join anew the chain of time and of ideas, to resume under fresh forms the attempt of 1789—the alliance of the national tradition and of the principle of liberty. It was at this point of view, presented to me by the very course of the events themselves, that I took my position; fixing my attention on that which seemed to be the path traced out for the future, and believing that I had before my eyes the providential termination of the labours of the centuries which had elapsed since the twelfth.

In other words, the historian—ruminating, and constructing his work under the influence of the *doctrinaires* of Louis Philippe's school—had arrived, in his own mind, at the conclusion that under the reign of the King of the Barricades the great work of national organisation was to be completed; and that henceforward, under the guardianship of a constitutional Crown, in alliance with an enlightened Tiers Etat, liberty and order should reign undisturbed. How brief the delusion, and how perplexing the author's position on awaking from it, shall be told in his own words:—

Entirely devoted to my task, which I was slowly pursuing as far as my abilities enabled me, I dispassionately approached the much-controverted period of the eighteenth century, when the catastrophe of February, 1848, burst suddenly upon us. I have felt the result of it in two ways, both as a citizen and also as an historian. By this new Revolution—full of the same spirit and the same threatening appearances as the worst times of the first—the history of France appeared to be thrown into as much disorder as France herself.

Now we know not what the reader will think of this candid confession, which, apart from the more serious reflections associated with it, deserves to be preserved in some future edition of the “Curiosities of Literature.” For our own part, as far as the author is concerned, we think it highly creditable to him; and for the reading public we consider it of value, as an example of the fallacy of human calculations, and a warning against placing too much confidence in that most favourite study of modern times, the “Philosophy of History.” We consider it, further, creditable to M. Thierry that, when he found the ground thus suddenly cut from under him, he did not make any attempt to bolster up his position, to reconcile difficulties, and to “philosophise” on under altered circumstances, as philosophers of history too generally attempt to do, often at the cost of making the “worse appear the better cause.” Neither did he in pique cast his MSS. into the fire, and deny the world the advantage of studying the materials and reflections he had accumulated upon a most interesting period of history. No—without altogether abandoning the idea that one day, as the result of future social changes, his cherished theory may yet be realised—he, for the present, gave up the task of developing it. “I suspended my work,” he says, “from a feeling of despondency easy to be understood; and the history, which I had carried down to the end of the reign of Louis XIV., stops at that point.”

Carried down to the period indicated, the History is a most interesting one; the ripe result of deep study, and conveyed in a manner at once perspicuous and striking. In his selection of materials the author, whilst sometimes purposely omitting facts which are already generally known, has drawn attention to many of no mean importance which have been but slightly noticed by other historians.

A passage from the character of that extraordinary despot, Louis XI., may be taken as a fair sample of the author's calm but eloquent style. After stating that the reign of Charles VII. was a period of national impulse, and that the new powers and new system established under it required, “in order to be saved from ruin, to be committed to the hands of an individual,” goes on as follows:—

That individual, that personality, jealous, active, self-willed, was Louis XI. If any passages of history seem marked by the seal of Providence, to perform a mission, the son of Charles VII. was one of them: he seems to have acted as King under a conviction of a duty superior, in his case, to all the duties of humanity—of an object to which he was obliged to advance without interruption, without having had time to choose his way. He who had raised the standard of opposition in concert with the aristocratic interests against his father made himself the guardian and abettor of all that was odious in the aristocracy. He applied all the energies of his existence, all that he had of intellect and passion, of virtue and vice, to this purpose. His reign was a daily struggle for the cause of unity of power, and the cause of social equality—a struggle carried on after the manner of savages, by cunning and cruelty, without courtesy, and without mercy. Thence arises the mixture of interest and repugnance which is excited in our minds by a character so strangely original. The despot Louis XI. does not belong to the class of egotistical tyrants, but to that of merciless innovators; before our revolutions it was impossible to understand him. The condemnation which he deserves, and with which he will remain charged, is the ignominy which the human conscience throws on the memory of those who have thought that all means are justifiable by which they can bend circumstances to the yoke of their own ideas.

This King, who affected to be one of the people by his tone, dress, and manners—who conversed familiarly with all sorts of persons, and wished to know, see, and do everything by himself—has some points of character which are only to be observed in the same degree in democratic dictatorship. The spirit of the commonality appeared in him even in the height of his power: he had a kind of presentiment of our modern civilisation; he divined all its tendencies, and aspired towards it without troubling himself about the possibility, without asking himself if the time were come.

The translation has been carefully executed by Mr. Wells, who has avoided those awkward gallicisms too common in bad translations.

MEMOIRS OF ANNE, DUCHESS OF BRITANNY, TWICE QUEEN OF FRANCE. By LOUISA STUART COSTELLO. W. and F. G. Cash.

The part which ladies bear in English literature is very honourable to them; and, indeed, it always was characteristic of Englishwomen to be either generous admirers and encouragers of meritorious authorship, or themselves even aspirants to its distinctions. The work before us is written by a lady who disputes even with Miss Strickland for a high place in the estimation of critics; and it is dedicated to the first lady in the land, “by especial permission.” It is, moreover, the life of a great lady, remarkable for her qualities, remarkable for her position—the last Sovereign Duchess of an ancient dukedom, and twice a Queen of one of the greatest kingdoms in the world. It is very remarkable with what pleasant vindictiveness the fair sex retaliates upon men the masculine character of ninety-nine per cent of books; almost all the books by women being about women. Of course such subjects of biography are also the most suitable to such biographers. The selection is generally excellent: it is what the writers can best treat, best understand; and the result is, a graceful, respectable, and delightful contribution to the intellectual treasury of the public.

In the present historical performance we have the life of Anne of Brittany. Already the same authoress has given us “Mary of Burgundy,” “Memoirs of Eminent Englishwomen,” and a host of other productions,—the memories of which, like a cloud of shadowy witnesses, introduce and recommend the new presentment.

Louis the Eleventh, a character so deeply graven in the appreciations of this country by the sombre and mighty hand of Sir Walter Scott, had just reigned in France? What have we said? We should speak of something more than either a reign or a Government, to borrow the famous distinction of M. Thiers. Louis both governed and reigned; but his place in history is due to something else. He also consolidated and absorbed the various elements of what Providence intended to be one mighty nation into their first real domestic amalgam. He has been harshly painted by the brush of history, for he had defects peculiarly calculated to arouse the indignation of humanity. But his abilities and his persistent energy were nearly unparalleled; and if he was a bad man, we doubt much whether he was a bad King; if he was a bad man, he was one of those bad men the fruit of whose careers is good. He was thoroughly devoted to his country, thoroughly suited to his high post.

He discharged his mission in no slovenly manner. He found France a congregation of petty principalities, and he left it a Power of Europe.

Obviously, to say that such a man as Louis had just lived, is to say that the separate and provincial dignity of ducal Brittany was about to expire. The great sorcerer of centralisation had breathed upon it; and that is all. For an intelligent reader more is not necessary than what Lord Bacon writes in his beautiful essay on “Faction” to comprehend the strange and mixed character of Louis XI., who took advantage of the factions everywhere surrounding his throne:—

Many have an opinion not wise, that for a Prince to govern his estate, or for a great person to govern his proceedings, according to the respect to factions, is a principal part of policy; whereas, contrariwise, the chiefest wisdom is, either in ordering those things that are general, and wherein men of several factions do nevertheless agree, or in dealing with correspondence to particular persons, one by one; but I say not, that the consideration of factions is to be neglected. Mean men in their rising must adhere; but great men, that have strength in themselves were better to maintain themselves indifferent and neutral; yet, even in beginners, to adhere so moderately as to be a man of the one faction, which is most possible with the other, commonly giveth best way. The lower weaker faction is the firmer in conjunction, and it is often seen that a few that are stiff do tire out a great number that are moderate. When one of the factions is extinguished, the remaining subdivideth; as the faction between Lucullus and the rest of the nobles of the Senate (which they call *Optimates*) held out awhile against the faction of Pompey and Caesar; but when the Senate's authority was pulled down, Caesar and Pompey soon after broke. The faction or party of Antonius and Octavius Caesar against Brutus and Cassius held out likewise for a time; but when Brutus and Cassius were overthrown then soon after Antonius and Octavius broke and subdivided. These examples are of wars, but the same holdeth in private factions; and therefore those that are seconds in factions do many times, when the faction subdivideth, prove principals; but many times also they prove cyphers and are cashiered; for many a man's strength is in opposition, and when that faileth he groweth out of use. It is commonly seen that men once placed, take in with the contrary faction to that by which they enter; thinking, belike, that they have the first sure, and now are ready for a new purchase.

This quotation speaks for itself. From the year 1476 to the year 1514, Louisa Stuart Costello gives us, in the life of one illustrious lady, the history of a nation, and of indeed of a continent and a world. She appears to have taken conscientious care in collecting her materials and in authenticating her statements. This is a great merit. As to style, our authoress is not very perfect. But, we beg the pardon of all ladies, no woman writes in a finished manner. There is elegance of expression; there is a certain eloquence even of a detached and fragmentary nature; but there is not good composition; much less is there composition of that highest kind in which no trace of labour can be detected. However, the work is an honourable work to its writer, and will prove agreeable to all who read it.

## WILL MY READERS GO TO SPAIN? Brighton: W. F. King.

Such is the quaint title which a lady-author gives to her journal, “day after day for two months,” in the Peninsula. The answer she implies to the question, judging from the *petits miseres*, the discomforts of hotels, and of public vehicles, and the annoyances of the constantly-recurring custom-house, would be in the negative. But then it should be borne in mind that the tour was a hurried one—only two months for scamping over the principal parts of Spain—and the period of the year (from the latter part of October till Christmas) unpropitious for travelling. Nevertheless, though the authoress does not treat her subject in inviting colours, her narrative is sometimes amusing, and is interspersed with occasional pointed remarks which relieve the monotony of a tedious and fatiguing journey. Upon her own sex she is not very lenient. She remarks how few of them are ordinarily abroad; and learns that “Spanish ladies never go out if there is the slightest cloud in the sky, or if the weather is the least damp or cold.” Inquiring of a French refugee as to their accomplishments and education, the reply is little flattering:—“He says that they are scarcely educated at all in any way, and that they possess no accomplishments whatever.” Possibly the authoress is capricious in the amount of attention bestowed upon different places and objects. Whilst Madrid is dismissed very cursorily, a tolerably full note is given of the Alhambra. It appears that the Emperor of Russia has been employing two artists here for twelve months past, making drawings of the old Moorish palace in all its details. The volume is illustrated with two or three views, executed in lithography, from sketches by the authoress.

TONGA AND THE FRIENDLY ISLES. By SARAH S. FARMER. Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

This volume contains a sketch of the history of the South Sea Islands, from their first discovery to the present time; and more particularly of the labours of the Missionary Society in respect to them. Upon the whole the report is satisfactory and encouraging. In the island of Tonga, within the last thirty years, idolatry has been abolished; Christianity established in its stead; the Sabbath kept with the strictest observance; the practice of polygamy given up; and schools established, at which parents are obliged to send their children; and amongst the population 8000 can read the Scriptures, and 5000 can write.

PARIS RESTAURANTS.—Not the least remarkable feature of Paris at this moment is the enormous number of *restaurants*. It is a regular invasion, more agreeable than one of Cossacks to be sure, but still one which menaces a formidable revolution in domestic habits. The rage for building—the beautiful structures that have risen on the ruins of gloomy and tottering edifices—and with such rapidity that after an absence of six months you scarcely recognise the quarter you were long familiar with—the large space produced by the sweeping away of filthy lanes and courts, at once the hotbed of disease, the repair of crime, and the centres of insurrection,—but, above all, the coming Exhibition are the causes of this extraordinary movement in the victualling department. You can hardly discover a passage in this “good city of Paris,” as the Kings of France loved to call their very troublesome capital—in which there are not two, three, or four *restaurants*, and you may traverse the Boulevard les Italiens and Montmartre without seeing a single house in which the *rez de chaussée* has not been converted into an eating-room. It seems actually the premature advent of the happy days predicted by Fourier, when for the domestic hearth, or rather the domestic dining-room, was to be substituted one general refectory, at whose tables were to partake of equal rations the happy citizens of Harmony. As he passes along about five o'clock on a raw evening, it is as much as a hungry man can do not to grow ferocious [as the delicious odour from the subterranean kitchen issues up through the iron grating. A stranger would suppose that from the establishment of so many eating-houses the domestic hearth was but poorly provided, or that a total change had taken place in the habits of the people. All this, however, is explained by the great hopes founded on the Exhibition, and on the vast number of strangers that will be attracted to Paris by it; and we shall, no doubt, soon feel the effect in the greater activity of commercial affairs.—*Letter from Paris.*

THE MARKET AT BALACLAVA.—Only fancy a vagabond buying a cargo of geese and turkeys at Sinope and Samsoun; the former cost him there 6d. each, and the latter 1s.; he charged at Balacava, on the 20th—turkeys 16s., geese 5s.; on the 23rd—turkeys 20s., geese 15s.; and on the 24th (all the turkeys being sold), geese 22s. each, skinny fowl 5s. each, and everything in proportion extortionate.

WAGES IN VICTORIA.—The state of the labour-market may be ascertained from the rates of wages quoted, and from the following “Wanted” which appear in the local papers:—“500 pick and shovel men, 10s. to 12s. per day, tent, tools, wood, and water;” “500 stone-breakers, 6s. to 10s. per yard—tents, &c. Such advertisements appear daily, and taken in connection with the fact that tolerable workmen can break from two to three yards every day, indicate the attainment of a really comfortable maintenance, and a respectable weekly balance, at even this the least skilled and simplest kind of labour.

DUCK-HUNTING with dogs was a barbarous pastime of the last century in the neighbourhood of London, happily put an end to by the want of ponds of water. St. George's-fields were a notorious locality for this sport: hence the infamous Dog and Duck tavern and tea-gardens, from a noted dog which hunted ducks on a sheet of water there. Hannah More makes it a favourite resort of her “Cheapside Apprentice.” The premises were afterward let to the School for the Indigent Blind, and were taken down in 1812, when Bethlehem Hospital was built upon the ground. In its front wall is preserved the original sign-stone of the tavern—a dog with a duck thrown across his back. Ingenious lesson this, of setting up a memorial of profligacy and cruelty upon a site devoted to the restoration of reason.—*Curiosities of London* (just published.)

## EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

It is the intention of the Emperor of the French to invite most of the Crowned Heads of Europe to the Exhibition. The Emperor of Austria is said to have already accepted.

The Duke and Duchess of Brabant arrived at Trieste on the 23rd from Venice, and were received on landing by the Archduke Ferdinand-Maximilian. They were, after a short stay, to proceed on their way to Greece and Egypt, under the incognito of Viscount and Viscountess Ardennes.

Duke George of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who is married to a Grand Duchess of Russia, and who has several times fulfilled missions to the German States in the interest of Russia, has lately quitted St. Petersburg, and is daily expected at Berlin.

On the 25th ult. the Bishop of Lincoln delivered his fifth of a series of lectures to the working-classes of Nottingham on the evidences of Christianity.

M. de Saint Amant, the well-known chess-player, who was governor of the Palace of the Tuileries after the revolution of 1848, and who recently published a very interesting work, entitled “Voyage en Californie et dans l'Oregon,” has just been unanimously admitted, in consequence of that work, member of the Société des Gens de Lettres.

The Grand Dukes Michael and Nicholas arrived on the 9th at Nicolaieff, and proceeded for Sebastopol, without stopping at Odessa.

Marshal Radetzki gave the first grand ball of the Carnival in his palace at Verona, on the 18th. It was attended by their Royal Highnesses the Duke de Brabant, and the Princes of Hesse Darmstadt, Wiemar, and Wurtemberg.

The Polish General, Count Bystrzonowski, who distinguished himself in the affair at Kars, where he was seriously wounded, has arrived in Paris on leave of absence.

The Emperor of the French has promoted Brigadier-General Bizot (Michel Brice) to the rank of Commander of the Legion of Honour. That officer has seen forty-eight years' service, and has assisted in ten campaigns.

General Count de Renneville is designated by the Emperor of Austria for a military mission to the Emperor of the French.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* announces that the health of the Duke of Genoa is improving.

Mr. Carden's health has been seriously impaired by the imprisonment which he has already undergone for the attempted abduction of Miss Arbuthnot.

Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has postponed indefinitely his intended journey to England.

The Solicitor-General for Scotland, Mr. Thomas Mackenzie, will succeed to the vacant seat on the Scottish bench, caused by the death of Lord Robertson.

There is no truth whatever in the Parisian report of M. d'Udesom being destined to replace Count Bernstorff, or of the latter being recalled.

In the case of the South-Western Railway v. the *Times* (legally the Queen v. Harrison), the printer of the *Times* was sentenced to £300 fine, or to be imprisoned until the fine was paid. The fine was paid.

The partisans of the Count Montemolin pretend that they have contracted a loan of 44,000,000 of francs with a wealthy Amsterdam firm; of which half is to be paid immediately, and the other half as soon as some fortified town on Spanish territory is got possession of.

The Emperor of Austria's conferring the Grand Cross of the Hungarian Order of St. Stephen on the French Minister for Foreign Affairs makes that gentleman, according to the statutes of the Order, an Austrian Grandee of the first class, with the title of Count.

It is announced from Turin that about the 12th or 15th instant a concentration of all the troops will take place in the plains of Marengo, where they will be reviewed by the King of Sardinia.

Some excitement has been created in ecclesiastical circles in Paris by the announcement that the Prince de Canino has resolved to take orders, in the expectation of becoming a Cardinal, and perhaps of attaining higher honours.

The French Emperor has ordered that, in compliance with the prayer of the Prefect of the Gironde, a bust in marble of Marshal St. Arnaud shall be executed at the expense of the Ministry of State, and be placed in the hall of the Council-General of that department.

The Hon. Pierre Soulé has resigned his office as United States Minister to Spain, and John C. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, has been appointed his successor.

A decree, dated Paris, January the 17th, nominates the Swiss General Ochsenbein a French General of Brigade on foreign service.

The family of Marshal St. Arnaud is about to publish a volume of his private letters. This collection, certain to be interesting, independent of its literary merits, will commence with La Vendée, and terminate with the war in the Crimea.

The German poet Haunschild, known by the pseudonym o. Max Waldern, died recently in Silesia.

Miss Catherine Hayes has been giving concerts in Sydney with great success.

The connection of Derry with Enniskillen by means of the magnetic telegraph has been completed.

A letter from Belgrade states that by the end of this month the electric telegraph between that place and Austria will be completed, when the conveyance of intelligence between Paris and Constantinople will be reduced thirty hours.

Genoa was visited by a marine earthquake last week. It set in with a heavy swell (without wind, and consequently without warning), which did a good deal of mischief among the shipping, and was popularly ascribed to some extraordinary disturbance of the earth's surface underneath the sea.

Recent advices from the Pacific mention a further discovery of guano on the island of La Plata, and another deposit on an adjacent group of isles.

An American lady, Miss Sarah Pellett, has declared her intention of taking 5000 respectable New England girls to California.

A bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Pennsylvania granting political and civil rights to persons of colour now residing, or who may hereafter reside, in that State.

The Government of Rome is augmenting its military strength, particularly its Swiss regiments and its gendarmes.

It is calculated that 14,000 persons emigrated from the Duchy of Baden in 1854, and that upwards of 60,000 have left within the last eight years. The population of the Duchy is now less than it was in 1846, and only amounts to 1,357,000.

At the sitting of the Glasgow High Court of Justiciary, out of a calendar of eight criminals no fewer than three were ticket-of-leave convicts.

On the demand of the Mayor of Valenciennes, supported by M. Nieuwerkerke, Director of the Imperial Museums, the French Government has just ordered to the town of Valenciennes a fine block of marble for the statue of Froissart.

An attempt was made last week to shoot Mr. Henry Bevan Slaton, while standing at his own hall door at Ballymahon, in the county of Westmeath. Mr. Slaton was the purchaser of some property of late in the Encumbered Estates Court, and found it necessary to eject some of the tenantry.

A house, altogether of cast iron, four stories high, is about to be erected in Paris, on the plans of two engineers, one French and the other English.

There has been a strike among the dock labourers of New York, who refuse to work at 6s. 3d. per day. Meetings of the unemployed, at which large numbers of persons attended, has been held.

There are living in the small village of Leyton, Essex, four persons of the name of John Swan, not at all related, and all with wooden legs, although not one has been in the Army or Navy.

A demonstration of unemployed workmen took place in New York on the 10th ult., and they sent a deputation to the Mayor, who assured them he was unable to grant them any relief.

Some exertions are making for the discovery of a gold-field in South Australia, with a reward of £10,000 to the finder, and it is mentioned that this reward had been claimed for gold discovered in quartz about fifty-five miles from the city of Adelaide.

The total amount paid during the present war for naval stores, their conveyance, prisoners of war, and packet service, up to the 1st of December, has been over three millions and a half—£3,527,634.

The Second Prussian Chamber has adopted a very important resolution, namely, to call on the Government to prepare as promptly as possible a bill for the suppression of the privilege of exemption from the land-tax, which certain property of nobles still enjoys.

The late tempestuous weather has caused serious damage to the shipping on the French coast. A letter from St. Raphael states that on the night of the 20th ult. such a hurricane was experienced there as had not been known for thirty years.

A special convention has been entered into between France and Baden for regulating the interchange of telegraphic despatches.



NEW NIPPLE SHIELDS for taking away

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